

PRAIRIE CORVETTE GAZETTE

March 2020

Newsletter

**National Corvette
Restorers Society**

Next Meeting

March 21, 2020

**NCRS Nebraska Chapter
Membership Meeting &
Election of Chapter Officers
@ 10:00 a.m., Gene Walker's
16612 Frederick Circle,
Omaha, NE. 68130**

1-402-933-0017

**Chapter Chairman's
Message**

**Brad Hillhouse with Craig
Stephan's help, hit a home run
on the two-day judging school
held at his shop this last
weekend. I was able to attend
the Friday evening session on
C3 hubcaps put on by Dallas**

Nebraska Chapter



**Keller, club member from
Wichita. Great job, Dallas! Thank
you. On Saturday, Brad re-
assembled a rear suspension on
a 68 Corvette with the correct
"upside down" bolts.**

**More details in the newsletter...
Our next meeting will be at my
house on March 21st. at 10:00
am. This will be a membership
meeting where we will vote for
club officers for 2020. Your club
officers will also give a short
presentation on their activities
so this is a great opportunity to
learn more about the club.**

**Margie will be fixing lunch.
Please plan to attend since this
is an important meeting.**

**I've made initial contact with H
& H Chevy on re- establishing
the relationship that our chapter
previously had with this Chevy
dealership. I will keep you
posted on the expected success
with them. **Regards, Gene****

Identifying and Judging C3 PO1 and PO2 Hubcaps and C3 Trim Rings

On Friday February 28th 2020, eighteen (18) Nebraska chapter, Wichita Midway chapter, and Kansas City chapter members all meet at Brad Hillhouse's shop in Lincoln Ne. for a Nebraska Chapter judging school and Dinner social.

The evening started with an hour or so for everyone to meet, talk cars, and just plain relax with each other. Dinner tables were set up and the Nebraska chapter provided pizza, salad, bread, and beverages. A great way to kick off the evening.

The judging school presenter was Dallas Keller from the Wichita Midway chapter. The subject was identifying and judging C3 PO1 and PO2 hubcaps and C3 trim rings. Starting with the trim rings Dallas had examples of both oem originals and reproduction. He explained the differences between them and the point deductions that would be appropriate.

Next Dallas moved on to the PO1 and PO2 corvette hubcap option, with examples of all. He explained that almost all Chevrolet models had a similar

design hubcap option, and he detailed the distinctive differences of the corvette design. Dallas talked about the slight but important differences of the 1968 only PO1 and the 1969 on PO2. He went on to explain the ability of interchanging parts from other Chevrolet models to make a somewhat similar looking corvette design hubcap and the appropriate point deductions for varying design differences. Dallas then took the time to explain rally style wheels. Where to find the corvette designation stamping along with the date code.

Dallas did a great job in his presentation and we left feeling confident in identifying corvette trim rings and PO1 And PO2 hubcaps and the ability to judge them properly.

A great evening of learning and comradery. Hope to see you all at our next event!!



Dallas Keller conducting his seminar on Hubcaps and trim rings.



A big NCRS Nebraska “Thank You” to Craig Stephan for providing the Valentino’s Pizza for the Friday night judging school. Thank you to Gary & Dawn Goodyear for providing the donuts and Brad Hillhouse for the coffee for our Saturday morning C2-C3 Frame Judging School. Everyone that attended and enjoyed the treats says Thank You!

Corvette Photographs to follow from the Tri- City Street Rods - 47th Annual Grand Island Car Show on February 15th & 16th, 2020.





Above - NCRS Nebraska Chapter members Greg & Peg McCollough's 1960 Corvette won Best in Class and Goodguys Rodders "Rep Pick".



Judging School – 2/29/2020 C2 & C3 Corvette Frames and Rear Suspension.

Saturday Morning February 29 was a Judging School in Lincoln at Brad Hillhouse's shop. The topic was C2-C3 Corvette Frames & Rear Suspension. In doing research for the C2-C3 Frames, I uncovered a lot of information about where, why and how the frames were built and sourced for GM. The school began with a bit of history about AO Smith who was the company that built the frames for the Corvette as well as some of the bodies for the 1964-67 Corvettes. There were photos of the Corvette plant, AO Smith plant, Rail cars loaded with frames & bodies shown to the group. Then the power point went into the building of the frame and identification of the vin number location on the frame.

We then went to the hands-on portion of the presentation. On a cart there was an almost completed rear suspension assembly including the differential, leaf spring, half shafts, swing arms, strut rods etc. One half shaft and strut rod were left unattached and we got volunteers to help install them

showing the factory procedure as the rear suspensions were built in the basement of the Corvette plant. Once the entire assembly was completed, we used a crane and steel lifting assembly to raise the entire suspension from the workbench and moved it over to the waiting frame that was on its own rack waiting for the suspension. We then lowered the suspension into the upside-down frame, exactly like they did it at the assembly line in St. Louis. We discussed CDCIF on many of the parts for Configuration, Date, Completeness, Installation, & Finish. We also discussed how these would be judged and some techniques for refinishing original parts for judging. 28 people were in attendance, 4 out of state NCRS members decided to join the chapter and everyone had a great time. If you are not coming to these judging schools, you don't know what you are missing! Time and place of the next judging school will be in the April newsletter.

**Brad Hillhouse
Judging Chairman**

**Photos to follow from the
Saturday Frame & Rear
Suspension Judging School.**



interior and a white 2019 Grand Sport with red interior. Lowell works with Brad Hillhouse at his shop and together they have built many NCRS Top Flight Corvettes. Lowell brings a wealth of GM mechanical knowledge to the group and we are excited to have him join the Nebraska Chapter.

Blaine & Anna Koch joined the Nebraska chapter a few weeks ago and they attended their first NCRS event at the Lakeland Regional. Grady Koch is their father/father in-law and told them how welcome the NCRS Nebraska Chapter has been to him and they decided to join in on the fun! The currently live in Florida but are hoping to move back to Nebraska with their 3 children in the near future. We had the pleasure of going to dinner with the entire Koch family in Florida and it was the highlight of the trip. Welcome Blaine, Anna & Family!

Bob Henn joined the Nebraska Chapter at the recent C2-C3 Frame & Chassis Judging School in Lincoln. Bob is an accountant from Kansas City and owns a 2003 Anniversary Red Corvette Convertible and a 2001 Z06. Bob had his 2003 50th Anniversary at the 2019 Cincinnati Regional where it

NCRS Nebraska Chapter Membership Report:

I would like to welcome nine new members to the NCRS Nebraska Chapter this month. Lowell & Melinda Keedy just joined NCRS National and the Nebraska chapter. They are owners of a 1978 Silver Anniversary coupe with red

was photographed for the new 2003 TIMJG and used as part of the new model year judging program for the 2003 Corvettes that will now be Flight Judged. John Hecker is a 31-year NCRS member and joins us as a Nebraska member as well as KC and Midway USA. John has owned a multitude of Corvettes over the years including 1958 thru 2017 models and several Corvette Race cars. John is a 200+ point master judge and we look forward to him bringing his knowledge of Corvettes and NCRS judging to our chapter. John & his wife Cindy currently own a 2017 GS, 1999 red Convertible and a 1982 black Coupe.

Jerry Adams is a recent new member to NCRS KC chapter and when he saw the great C2-C3 Frame & Suspension Judging School at Nebraska he decided to join our chapter also. Jerry has judged at NCRS events on Chassis and concours Corvettes. Jerry & his wife Belinda own a 2014 3LT blue coupe. Welcome to the Nebraska Chapter Jerry! Wichita Midway USA Chapter Chairman Rick Smiley and his wife Bev have also joined out Nebraska Chapter. Rick & Bev are 42-year NCRS Members and

master judge & tabulators. The Smileys own a 1971 LT1 auto cross car that they have campaigned heavily around the Midwest, a 1963 SWC and a Black 2000 FRC that has been judged and used at the National Judging school. Welcome Smileys!

Chuck Casanova has also rejoined the Nebraska Chapter. Chuck is a 18 year NCRS member and former Nebraska Chapter board member. We are excited to have Chuck join the Nebraska Chapter again 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
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Judging Chairman's Message

I want to thank everyone that came out to the February C2-C3 Frame & Chassis School. I think everyone had a great time on Friday night and Saturday. 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. 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, on the NCRS Website under "Coming Events" or contact me and I can help you get involved!

Brad Hillhouse

Nebraska Judging Chairman

Report on the NCRS Regional in Lakeland, Florida Feb. 19-22, 2020

The first of six NCRS regionals held each year is in Lakeland Florida. About an hour southwest of Orlando, the event this year was held in conjunction with the Carlisle Events Winterfest. Nebraska Chapter members Brad Hillhouse, Craig Stephan, Grady Koch made the trip for the 3-day event. New Nebraska Chapter members Blaine & Anna Koch live in the area and are the son and daughter in law of Grady and also attended each day of the Regional. There were about 50 Corvettes for judging from Flight to Concours and even PV and Bowtie Signoff. The first stop as soon as we got off the plane in Orlando was a quick trip to Rogers Corvette Center of

Maitland, FL. Roger was a gracious host and let us get a good look at his 1968 L88 and 1969 ZL1. What a great guy! Brad & Craig were asked to judge Concourse Operations on Thursday and we had 4 Corvettes to work through. While doing operations on a 1972, the engine compartment started smoking. I immediately told the car owner to turn his car off and turn the battery disconnect switch. Somewhere within the owner's ignition wiring harness, a wire had shorted out and was sending power directly to ground. This was a prime example of why safety is the #1 requirement and a battery cutoff switch is mandatory on any Corvette. Inside a building with Corvettes within 4 feet on each side, had the wiring started a full-on fire, this could have been a disaster. Friday Craig & I took the Advanced Judging School and the morning session we chose to break into small groups and focused on judging aspects of paint and engine compartment on a 3,000-mile 1974 Bowtie Corvette coupe. The afternoon session we had the entire group of 50 students as the 1974 was put on a lift to do a chassis school. Much to my surprise,

school leader Terry McMannon started the session by saying: “Now we will have Brad Hillhouse give the afternoon school session on chassis. Take it away Brad!” Yikes, I wasn’t prepared for that, but after trying several times to politely decline, I started into a discussion on paint attributes of the lower rocker panels, fender openings and wheel well areas. We worked through the underside of the chassis pointing out assembly line chalk markings, drive and half shaft configurations as well as exhaust systems. Time flew by and before I knew it, the 2-hour schools was completed. Saturday, we spent an hour out on the swap meet and found some rusty gold to stuff our suitcases with before catching one more judging school and then it was time to head for the airport. It was a fun break from the cold of Nebraska and a trip that we will be making again in 2021.

Brad Hillhouse & Craig Stephan

To follow are photographs from the Lakeland, Florida NCRS Regional, February 19 – 22, 2020



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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.**

**March 21, 2020 NCRS Nebraska
Chapter Membership Meeting &
Elections @ 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 National
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**