

# NRL Reporter

## December 2025



[www.northernrayscorvetteclub.com](http://www.northernrayscorvetteclub.com)

**1972-2025**

**53 Years and Still Going Strong!**



# Best Burger Challenge The Vote is in.

**The Winner was....**



**Congrats to Mark & Cindy Barbera!**

**Thank you for donating your winnings to the  
Itasca food pantry!**

Northern Rays Ltd. (NRL) is a sanctioned club of the National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC). Its members are dedicated to the preservation and competition of the Chevrolet Corvette.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at:

**Real Time Sports  
1120 W. Devon Ave.  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007**

Membership in NRL is based on an applicant meeting the following requirements:

- 1) Be a Corvette Enthusiast at the time of Application.
- 2) Be at least 18 years old
- 3) Submitted the first year's NRL/NCCC New Member dues of \$90 Single/\$145 Couple, which includes an NRL club shirt. All members will also receive an NCCC membership card.
- 4) NRL/NCCC Renewal dues are \$60 Single/\$95 Couple.

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All inquiries concerning the *Reporter* Should be directed to the Publications Director. Advertising rates are listed on the back cover.

All items being submitted for inclusion in the *Reporter* must be received by the Publications Director no later than the last Tuesday of the month.

Address all club correspondence to Northern Rays Ltd., P.O. Box 455, Itasca, Illinois 60143.

Northern Rays Ltd. Is registered in the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit organization.

2025 Northern Rays Ltd.

## 2025 NRL OFFICERS

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## *From the Office of the President* December 2025

Well, our driving season is about over and many of you have already tucked your cars away for a long winter's sleep. Especially after that last November snowfall. But that doesn't mean our club has to go to sleep! Let's get ready for a great New Year of fun & thrills!

I would like to thank all our officers who participated in last year's activities making 2025 a fun packed active year for all our members, Great job! We completed 34 various events from January thru December.

The past month of November we announced the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners of the NRL 2025 Best Burger Challenge with Mark Barbera in 1<sup>st</sup> place - held in October at Spears Bourbon & Burgers, Wheeling, IL Diane Wagner in a very close 2<sup>nd</sup> place win – held in May at JT's Porch Saloon, Lombard, IL. We'll need to find a new monthly challenge for 2026.

November also held two additional events on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, a Friendsgiving Luncheon at the Ivy Restaurant, Wheaton, IL and on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Morning Brunch at Ki's Restaurant in Glen Ellyn, IL. Did you know, Ki's has been the oldest running restaurant in DuPage County since 1934.

Don't forget about our NRL Christmas Dinner at Villaggio's Restaurante, Roselle, IL on Saturday 12.6.25 at 6pm. Hopefully you've all submitted your meal selections to Ed Frost.

Our December meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>, will be our last meeting in 2025 closing with the White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you would like to participate in the fun, please bring a non-gender gift, wrapped, to be placed in the pool of gifts for the picking. We will draw numbers to see who will be first through the last to select a gift from the pool or steal from a fellow member, this will continue until the last gift from the pool is selected or traded, be careful as you select your gift.

### We have some New Officers for 2026

Congratulations and Thank You to all our new and reinstated officers for 2026, with a slight change in the roster where Diane Wagner was reelected as President and I will fill in as VP, the remaining officers will be the same as last years. Starting after the holidays in January, we look forward to another fun packed active year for 2026.

Again, I'd like to thank all our past & new **members** for making our club one of the best in the Midwest, maybe not the biggest, but a Great Group of People and Corvette enthusiasts to hang with. I look forward to hanging with you again in 2026.

That's it for now, see you all at our next club meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Real Time Sports in Elk Grove Village, IL. Pizza at 7:00, the meeting starts at 7:30.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

**Fred Marano**  
**President**  
**Northern Rays LTD.**



### **Northern Rays Corvette Club General Membership Meeting**

**Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

**By: Cindy Barbera**

Meeting Location - Real Time Sports, Elk Grove Village, IL

- Pizza was served at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:27 p.m. by Fred Marano

**President's Report** – Fred Marano – Fred welcomed everyone. Last month's meeting minutes were reviewed with motion for approval by Mike Baumer and seconded by Tom Novak. He thanked everyone for bringing nonperishable food items for our annual food drive for the Itasca food pantry. We had a lot of food!! YAY!!

Fred reviewed our events that were held since our last meeting. October 5<sup>th</sup> a last-minute impromptu drive out to Flight Deck Bar and Grill in Rochelle, IL. It was a beautiful day and drove on many back roads. Will plan another drive next year to New Rochelle. October 26<sup>th</sup> was our last drive out for the year. We had a lunch at St Paul Fish Company in Mequon WI. A great trip and delicious food. Results for the Best Burger Challenge votes were carefully tabulated, and by a fraction Mark Barbera won the best burger challenge and Diane Wagner came in second. Winnings were donated to the Itasca Food Pantry. Need suggestions for our food challenge next year.

The only position open on the board for voting was Director of Competition and Dan Wagner will be the Director for another year. A heart-felt thank you to the members below who have accepted the positions for 2026.

Elected Officers are:

President- Diane Wagner – Vice President -Fred Marano – Treasurer – Mike Baumer - Governor Dan Wagner – Secretary – Cindy Barbera – Competition – Dan Wagner – Public Relations – Chris Strohm – Membership – Ed Frost – Sargent at Arms – Santo Scafide and Ed Wodniakowski – Publications – Diane Wagner.

The 2026 Officers are approved by Cindy Barbera.

**Vice President's Report** – Tim Bruin

One member' birthday in November. Mike Abbinanti

Upcoming outings.

November 8<sup>th</sup> Friendsgiving Luncheon at Ivy Restaurant in Wheaton. Reservations made for 12:30pm.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> Champagne Brunch at Ki's Steakhouse & Seafood. Meet there at 10am.

December 6<sup>th</sup> is our annual Christmas Party at Villagio's Restaurant. Ed Frost passed out RSVP & dinner choice.

December 9<sup>th</sup> Last membership meeting of the year with our White elephant gift exchange & party.

**Governor's Report** – Dan Wagner – Will attend the meeting in St Louis to pay our dues.

**Secretary Report** – Cindy Barbera – Nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report** –Mike Baumer – Reviewed Income and Expenses for November.

**Competition Report** – Dan Wagner – Competitions are done for the season.

**Membership Report** – Ed Frost – Reminder to turn in your RSVP food selection for the Christmas party.

**Publications Report – NRL Reporter** - Diane Wagner. Elaine and Mike received a special prize for answering Diane's question in the reporter.

**Public Relations Director – Chris Strohm** -Nothing to report.

**Web Master Report** – Mike Baumer – Reporter is posted on website.

**Sergeant at Arms Report** – Ed W. reported 1 corvette in the lot tonight. Guess who?

**Historian Report** – Vern Fagerberg – Nothing to report.

- 10 min. brake:

**Raffles coordinated by:**

Les Sandler -50/50 – tickets \$1 each or six for \$5 Sue Marano -General Raffle – tickets \$4 each or 3 for \$10  
Fourteen November raffle winners and many gifts to choose from.

**Winner this week for the 50/50:**

Tim Bruin won the 50/50 Cash Prize for \$50.00 and donated it to the Food Pantry.

Your contributions and ticket purchases support NRL and our pizza sharing at each meeting. Thank You!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. motion by Mike Baumer and second by Dan Wagner.

**Next Meeting December 9, 2025**

# Friendsgiving Lunch

## Ivy Restaurant, Wheaton, IL

### November 8, 2025



# NRL Food Drive

## for the Itasca Food Bank



Held at our November 11th membership meeting. Thank you for all of the food and money donations. Thank you Ed for delivering all of this to the pantry!

# Champagne Brunch

## November 23, 2025

### Ki's, Glendale Hts.



Thank you Tim & Rose for organizing a wonderful event.

# Happy Birthday!



**Merry Christmas!**

## December Birthday's

Cindy Barbera

December 2

Andy Kanturek

December 8

Katy Baumer

December 11

## 2025 Events we have enjoyed so far:

1. Our First NRL event of 2025 – A wonderful turnout of 18 warriors on January 25<sup>th</sup> competed, ladies against the men for bragging rights for whichever team escaped first from their Escape/Panic room. This event was held at the Panic Room in Addison. After the ladies won, everyone went to Shoeless Joe's for lunch.
2. Thank you for Supporting Heart Health Month & our annual paper drive for the Itasca Food Pantry at our February membership meeting.
3. Bocce Ball at Pinstripes in S. Barrington on March 8th was a blast! We had three courses reserved for us, and another great turnout. Girls against the boys. The final round was not completed because we ran out of time, so we are going to have to come back and do it again! Thanks Tim & Rose for planning this fun event. Afterwards, most of us went to Rosatti's Pizza for dinner.
4. March 22<sup>nd</sup> NRL volunteered their time to "Feed My Starving Children" in Schamburg. Thank you for donating your time to help feed those in need. NRL Rocks!
5. Friday April 4th was our 2nd year at Makray Golf Club for our annual fish fry event. 22 members ventured out in horrible weather to attend this year.
6. April 24th was our first installment of the "Best Burger Challenge." Fred Marano won the first pick, and his choice was Empire Burger in Lombard. 18 members rated the burgers at this cool dining spot. (just wished it was a little warmer out so we could have stayed outside without them closing us in)
7. April 26th NRL celebrated Fruhlingsfest (Spring Festival) at Schnitzel Platz. The drinks flowed, and everyone enjoyed their German dinner selections. Elaine won a raffle for a record of her choice, and Sue danced and entertained everyone along with the "paid" entertainment.
8. The Great Big Gameshow event was on May 4th. Another men against the ladies competition event. 15 members enjoyed trivia, puzzles, and chance games. And..... Of course the winners for the 2nd time this year were "THE LADIES!"
9. May 29th was our 2nd installment of the "Best Burger" challenge. Diane W hosted 17 members and one guest at JT's Porch Saloon & Eatery in Lombard. 16 members voted for the challenge. We also got to celebrate Fred M. His birthday was on this day, so we all sang happy birthday and had some cake! Fun night!
10. Anderson's Japanese Gardens in Rockford was our next outing on May 31st. 15 members enjoyed walking around this beautiful property. Afterwards everyone caravaned to the Poison Ivy Pub for lunch. It was a cool but sunny day, and a great day of fellowship.
11. June 7th & 8th was our first co-sponsored autocross event of the year. It was held at McHenry County College. We had over 30+ competitors each day. The Wagner's worked both days, and Chris S. raced.
12. The following weekend, Jun 14 & 15th was our NRL autocross event at the Rantoul Aviation Center. We had 25 racers on Saturday & 23 on Sunday. It wasn't a great turnout, but we made a little money for the club. But most importantly, we hosted a great event that went smoothly thanks to our NRL volunteers, and co-sponsor Windy City Corvettes, and their members.
13. The 3rd installment of our search for the "best burger" contest was on June 26th at Burger Local in Geneva. Linda Dunlap was our host. 20 members came out and 19 judged their burgers.
14. On June 28th was our "Sippin Trip." We had 10 cars that got to enjoy a scenic drive with Fred M. leading the way. We traveled up into Wisconsin to a Winery, then off to a Brewery. We headed back down to Illinois to a Distillery, and finished up at a Supper Club. Thank you Tim & Rose for the planning of all these locations. Everyone had a great time!
15. July 4th was the Niles parade. This is an annual event for our club. This year was a little dicey with all the rain that arrived just a little bit before the parade was suppose to start. It took a little while, but the parade happened.
16. The weekend of July 12 & 13th was an NRL co-sponsored autocross event at the Isle Casino in Bettendorf, IA. Suzie M, Dan & Diane W worked the event. Fred M, Chris S. and new member Mark T. competed. This time we were challenged with severe storms on Friday getting to the venue.
17. Sharkfest 2025 was on July 19th. Severe thunder storms were predicted that day. Hoping for the best, it was decided to not cancel it. With so much planning, lets just make it happen. And we did. The rain did arrive, but nothing severe. The turnout wasn't the best because of the rain, but everyone that did attend had a great time. Thank you West Dundee VFW for the venue!

18. The 4th installment of our search for the “Best Burger” contest was on July 31st at Brandt’s in Palatine, hosted by Tim Bruin. 12 members voted on their burgers.
19. August 17-22nd was the NCCC annual convention. This year our region hosted this event. Three members, Fred & Suzi Marano and Mike Baumer attended. They attended the 2024 Awards banquet on Monday evening, where our club received a trophy for being in 8th place for points out of 236 clubs. Diane Wagner & Suzi Marano also received awards. On Tuesday, Fred Marano competed in the Low Speed Autocross where he won 2nd place in his class. Fred & Suzi also competed in the Rallye. Lots of other social events were attended too.
20. The 5th installment of our “best burger” challenge was held on August 28th at The Country House in Geneva, hosted by Chris Strohm. We had 12 members vote on their burgers.
21. On September 6th we had a great showing for the Bloomingdale parade. It was a beautiful day for a parade, but still a bit too warm for our “older” shark car. Those big engines just don’t like to go slow. After the parade Joe & Lori invited everyone to their house for a get together. Thanks for hosting all of us!
22. Tim & Rose arranged a lunch at Lindy’s Landing in Wauconda on Saturday September 13th. Another beautiful warm day to enjoy a great lunch & conversation.
23. The 6th installment of our “best burger” challenge was held on September 25th at Lucky Smash Burgers in Palatine, this one was hosted by Mike Cambio. We had 11 members vote and a couple of guests join in on the fun.
24. A group planned on attending the last autocross that is going to be held in Columbus WI the weekend of September 27 & 28th. Fred & Suzi Marano were the only members that made it. Fred did an awesome job winning 13 out of 14 races in his class! Congrats!
25. A last minute impromptu drive out to Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle IL on Sunday, October 5th was organized by Fred M. It was another beautiful warm day, a little, no a lot of wind, but we still had the tops down and drove back roads all the way there. Great food & venue.
26. October 11-12th our NRL autocrossers went in two totally different directions. Chris S completed at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake. Dan & Diane W and Fred M with Suzi M along for the ride went to Grissom Aeroplex in Peru, IN.
27. On October 19th, NRL was invited to joint the NCRS group for their Fall Color Drive. It was a stormy day, but still always a good time & great people. Thanks for inviting us!
28. A couple members wen to the Blackhawk Farm Raceway in S. Beloit, IL for the annual “Corvette Day.”
29. October 26th was our last caravan trip for the year. Ed W. organized a nice drive from Alexander’s to the St. Paul’s Fish Company in Mequon, WI. Awesome food & a great trip!
30. The 7th and final installment of our “best burger” challenge was on October 30th at Spears Bourbon Burger Beer in Wheeling, IL, hosted by Mark Barbera. 15 members rated their burgers. The winner of the 2025 challenge will be announced at our next membership meeting in November. Good Luck!
31. November 8th was our “Friendsgiving Lunch” at Ivy Restaurant in Wheaton. Tim & Rose found us an awesome restaurant that was originally a church. It was a beautiful place.
32. At our November 11th membership meeting we had our annual food drive for the Itasca Food Pantry. Thank you for all the generous monetary and non perishable food items.
33. Tim & Rose arranged for us to attend a Champagne Bruch at Ki’s Steak & Seafood on November 23rd.
34. Our last event will be at Villagio’s for our annual NRL Christmas Party/Dinner. T

## 2026 Planning / Events



Northern Rays Ltd.

DATE	EVENT	KEY CONTACT
Tues – Jan 13	Monthly Club Meeting – 7:30 PM Real Time Sports - 1120 W. Devon, Elk Grove, IL	Diane W & Fred M

The NRL officers would LOVE your input. Let's make 2026 as awesome as 2025! This is a hard challenge! Tim and Rose Bruin had our club hopping in 2025. Your ideas, suggestions, and hopefully you choose to host an event somewhere will keep us rolling in 2026. Suggestion sheets will be out on the tables at both our December & January meetings. Feel free to email Fred Marano with any questions or ideas if you can't make the meetings.

## NRL Elected Officers for Calendar Year 2026

Officer/Position:	Nominations:
President	Diane Wagner
Vice President	Fred Marano
Secretary	Cindy Barbera
Treasurer (2 year term) Up for Election again for 2027	Mike Baumer
NCCC Governor	Dan Wagner
Director of Competition	Dan Wagner
Membership Director	Ed Frost
Publication Director	Diane Wagner
Director of Public Relations	Chris Strohm
Sergeant At Arms (2 positions)	Ed Wodniakowski Santo Scafide



## December 2025 Question

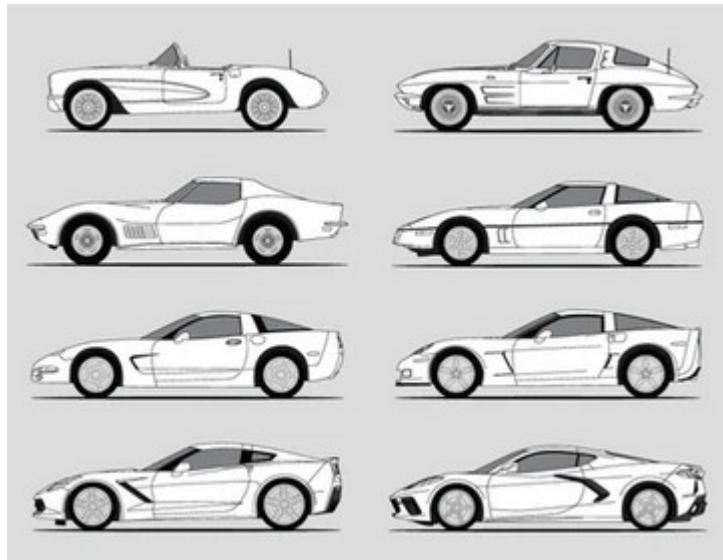
**Which Corvette is best to drive in the snow!**





## November 2025 Trivia Answer

**What year is the rarest Corvette?**



**1969**

**(Don't shoot the messenger)**

**That is what my trivia book says!**

## Our Meeting Place



Real Time Sports bar located in Elk Grove Village is a sports bar like you have never seen before. With 50 HD TVs and a 20 foot jumbo screen, we offer all sports games minute by minute. Unbelievable food and awesome drink specials keep our customers coming back for more. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Real Time Sports Bar  
Tel: 847-534-5000  
1120 W Devon Ave  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

## Advertising in the NRL *REPORTER*

Advertising in the *Reporter* is very simple. First you choose the size and space which best suits your needs and pocketbook and then how long a period you want your ad to run.

Once those decisions have been made, you will need to choose the design of your ad.

If you already have an ad in another publication, we can simply reproduce it for inclusion in the *Reporter*. Or, you may want to use your business card, which works just as well.

If you wish to create a new ad, we can assist you with your design at no additional charge.

Ad Size	One Month	Three Months	Six Months	One Year
1/8 Page (Business card size)	\$2.50	\$7.00	\$13.00	\$25.00
1/4 Page	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$45.00
1/2 Page	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$90.00
3/4 Page	\$15.00	\$45.00	\$75.00	\$140.00
<b>Full Page</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>

Note: The NRL Reporter is posted on the NRL Website at [www.northernrayscorvette.com](http://www.northernrayscorvette.com)  
That means your ad will reach a bigger audience.



You scrolled or read this reporter to the end.  
Thank you!

I made a mistake awhile ago when I recapped all the events that we did this past year. I forgot to list one of the events. Can you figure out which one is missing in my review? (Hint.... It's still missing in this months reporter)

The first person to shoot me an email with the correct event that I missed will get a prize if you attend our Christmas meeting on December 9th.

Good luck!

Diane

