

Heartbeat of Olympia

Volume 37, Issue 2

Corvettes de Olympia
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
January 14th, 2009

February 2009

Corvettes de Olympia 2009 Officers	
PRESIDENT	Peggy Rogers 360-491-7432
VICE PRESIDENT	Randy Harris 360-459-8670
SECRETARY	Meagan Renick 360-459-0771
TREASURER	Art Carter 360-459-5457
NWACC REP.	George Schwartz Meagan Renick (alt)
COMMITTEES	
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES	Jon Cox
HISTORIAN	Meagan Renick
MEMBERSHIP	Art Carter
PUBLICITY	Peggy Rogers
SCHOLARSHIP	Cliff Reichel Karen Johnson
SPONSORSHIP	Peggy Rogers
TELEPHONE	Frankie Sokso Karen Johnson
WEB SITE	Art Carter Jon Cox
NCM AMBASSADOR	George Schwartz
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	Frankie Sokso

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CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday January 14, 2009, at Hawk's Prairie Inn. Introductions followed. The November minutes were approved as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Art Carter

Art reported the specifics of our treasury. If you would like further information on this, you can contact Art for a breakdown. This also included money raised for our scholarship fund by our auctioning of baskets at the club's Christmas party. Peggy thanked all for their contributions and generous donations.

NWACC – George Schwartz

George reported that there are currently some rules change proposals that the club will need to make a decision on so that the reps can report on the club's decisions at the upcoming NWACC meeting which will take place at the Puyallup Fairgrounds during the Corvette & High Performance Swap Meet at noon on February 7th. The club discussed and decided that the club is willing to let the reps make the decision on the rules change proposals, as they see fit to best represent the decision of the club. George and Meagan will meet at another time prior to the NWACC meeting, to decide how to vote on the proposals on the club's behalf.

NCM – George Schwartz

George reported that he is currently selling \$10 tickets for a '09 Corvette through the museum. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact George after the meeting.

WEBSITE – Art Carter The website is current.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Art Carter

Craig Forster was voted in tonight. Please welcome Craig to our club!

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Frankie Sokso

Flowers were sent to Kathy Vandiver in sympathy of the passing our one of our members, her husband, Mike Vandiver, who passed away last month. It was also discussed and decided that our

club will send a card and flowers to Jan Campbell (a member of Classical Glass Corvette Club and Tacoma Corvette Club) to show our sympathy for the passing of "Soupy" Campbell, a beloved long time friend of our club.

NEW BUSINESS

DONATIONS FOR "SOUPY" – George Schwartz

George stated that Jon has started a collection for Soupy's wife Jan, to help cover some of Soupy's medical expenses, etc. Jon was not able to attend the meeting, but Peggy asked that if you wish to contribute to call Art or send him an email (artcarter@comcast.net) to let him know that you would like to donate. Art will be writing a check to Soupy's wife Jan. It is not too late to make your donation.

Nominations of Officers – Peggy Rogers

Nominations were made for 2009 CdeO Officers.

Nominations are as follows:

President – Meagan Renick

Vice President – Randy Harris & Eric Ries

Treasurer – Art Carter

Secretary – Miranda Ries & Peggy Rogers

Nominations for officers will be re-opened at the February meeting, and voting/elections will follow.

Corvette & High Performance 35th Annual Swap Meet – George Schwartz

George talked about the upcoming CHP swap meet which will be held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds on February 7th and 8th. This is a really great event and he encourages all to attend. George also mentioned that Meagan's vintage 1968 Corvette race car will be on display at the event as well. This particular display is new this year and is by invitation only and

(Continued on page 2)



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Heartbeat of Olympia

The Heartbeat of Olympia is the official publication of Corvettes de Olympia. It is published monthly and samples can be obtained by writing to: Corvettes de Olympia, PO Box 2154, Olympia WA 98507-2154, or by contacting any club member. Newsletter subscription rate for non-members is \$10.00 per year.

Heartbeat of Olympia Editor-in-Chief: Randy Harris

Corvettes de Olympia is a non-profit organization formed in 1972. Our purpose is to:

- 1. Develop friendship and pride among Corvette owners and drivers,*
- 2. Encourage skillful, safe and sportsmanlike driving habits on the highways,*
- 3. Improve relations between the community and Corvette people,*
- 4. Actively promote, sponsor, organize, and supervise sports car competition, outings, meetings and other Corvette or sports car activities.*

Annual membership dues are family-\$55.00, single-\$27.50. Monthly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, at 7:00 pm, at a suitable location in Thurston County. Meetings are open to any and all Corvette enthusiasts.

Visit us on the web at: www.corvettesdeolympia.org

Past Presidents

Corvettes de Olympia

- 1972 Rich Lockhart
- 1973 Larry Johnson
- 1974 Rich Lockhart
- 1975 Terry Halliday
- 1976 Ralph Adams
- 1977 Bill Pollard
- 1978 Sandy Lockhart
- 1979 Mike Halliday
- 1980 Ralph Adams
- 1981 Larry Johnson
- 1982 Mike Halliday
- 1983 Karen Johnson
- 1984 Jerry Crabill
- 1985 Tom Kuchman
- 1986 Larry Johnson
- 1987 Duncan Johnson
- 1988 Skip Burch
- 1989 Jim Turcotte
- 1990 Karen Johnson
- 1992 Tom Kuchman
- 1991 Ron Zielin
- 1993 Roy Sciolli
- 1994 Tom Hanson
- 1995 Tom Kuchman
- 1996 Peggy Rogers
- 1997 Peggy Rogers
- 1998 Karen Johnson
- 1999 Randy Harris
- 2000 Randy Harris
- 2001 Jim Turcotte
- 2002 Peggy Rogers
- 2003 Peggy Rogers
- 2004 Vince Punteneu
- 2005 Vince Punteneu
- 2006 Vince Punteneu
- 2007 Brian Cousineau
- 2008 Peggy Rogers

Next meeting

Wed, February 11, 2009 7 PM
Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA
(Nominations for 2009 CdeO Officers)

President's Message



As this year comes to a close, it is election time once again, and a good opportunity to get new thoughts and ideas on the E Board. And we have some members ready and anxious to do just that. Nominations for offices will still be open at the February meeting and then we will vote.

2008 brought a bunch of money to our scholarship fund. First, the All City Rally, lead by Brian Cousineau brought in a record amount from the proceeds, Randy's mystery tour, poker run, piled in even more, and we ended the year with a live auction that brought in far more than we had even hoped for.

As I hand the gavel over to the new President, I want to thank the membership for your continued support, and friendship this past year. Your attendance at the meetings, volunteering for the various committees, hosting the picnics, the Rallies and tours and participating in all of those events. I am proud to have served as your 2008 President, and look forward to participating in the events of 2009.

Save the wave
 Peggy

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING (con't)
 limited to people under the age of 30 that own cars that are over the age of 30.

ADJOURNMENT / RAFFLE

The 50/50 raffle winner responsible for bringing next month's raffle prize is: Frank Zangar. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at Hawk's Prairie

Minutes submitted by
 Meagan Renick, 2008 CdeO Secretary



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Forget golfing.

According to some locals in the know, there is a much better hobby in Puget Sound.

Called autocross, it's a sport equally available to drivers of spitfast Porsches, economy Hondas, and family-style station wagons. It brings together Microsoft programmers, lawyers, truck drivers, and, yes, retired grandmothers.

On the surface, it sounds simple: Drive on a course. Try to avoid about three dozen strategically placed cones. Finish in less than 60 seconds. No special skill or training required (except a drivers' license).

It may not be Formula One, but autocross racing is every-bit as adrenaline driven. To spectators, it's just the sight of a fast car swerving around multiple tight corners. For the drivers, the heartbeat accelerates as fast as the car, as they navigate the sea of cones during what feels like the slowest minute of their life.

"Adrenaline? Absolutely," says Rick Vomenici, a Kent resident who has been racing for two years.

Vomenici is part of the Bremerton Sports Car Club, based at the Bremerton Motorsports Park at the edge of Port Orchard. The club hosts about eight events at that track every year, and Vomenici is one of many drivers who come from around the Northwest, and as far as Canada, to participate. "After I saw what these guys are doing here, I went everywhere," he says. This year alone, he's done more than 45 races, one almost every weekend. "People can teach you how to do this, nobody can do it well from the beginning," he says. "The level of talent in the Northwest is amazing — our region is one of the best in the country."

Richard "Duff" Stolberg, a Port Orchard resident and a board member with the BSCC who designs most of the club's event courses, says drivers can put in as little or as much time and money into autocross as they want. "It's quite an investment if you're dedicated to the sport, but you don't have to put a lot of money into it to have fun," he says.

It's not uncommon to have an ... umm ... well-loved car that's seen its better day waiting for its turn next to a shiny 'Vette that's been hauled to the event in a trailer.

At BSCC's most recent race, in August, Mike Daniels of Aberdeen even came in his 1931 Ford Roadster. The black hotrod, the kind normally seen at classic car shows, was an interesting sight to watch.

It was Daniels whole second day of autocross racing ever. "He had an absolute ball," his wife, Ingrid, said of his first day. "He loves it!" Have Car, Will Race. There is a lot to love, according to more seasoned racers. Meagan Renick of Olympia says she especially likes trying to "beat the guys." Renick is hard to miss when on the course. Her 1968 Corvette Roadster has been a race car its entire life, and it doesn't keep it a secret: Decorated with several sponsor logos, it's undoubtedly the loudest car on the track. Renick, now in her sixth year of autocross racing, is a member of several clubs. "One of the guys in my Corvette club kept bugging me (to get into a race) and I said, 'No, I don't want to wreck my pretty show car,'" she says of her beginnings. "I was hooked instantly." That instant attraction is not unusual. Stolberg says he resisted his neighbor's coercing for a year. "I avoided it like the plague because I knew once I go, I'll be hooked for life," he says.

That despite his very first attempt ending up in the ditch, literally. Stolberg rented a mini-Cooper, and on his second run put it into the ditch. "I had no clue about how to do this," he



says, three years later.

Stolberg tells the story of another beginner who once raced at a BSCC event. An elderly woman driving a Subaru wagon was taking it easy the first few times. "She was a hoot. By the end, she was on fire," he says. "... They all get bitten, women or men."

Women are not quite as common as men at these events, but they hold their own. Renick, who's always been into cars, has been the regional Corvette champion for the last five years. She says girls may be conditioned growing up as they have dolls imposed on them. Not her 3-year-old daughter: She comes to watch mom race and, Renick says, "is very knowledgeable." It's a family affair, in fact. Renick's husband, Mike, is a mechanic who does drag racing and is Renick's "pit crew."

Jodi Fordahl, a Bremerton resident who is the club's vice president, is an eight-time national autocross champion. Her husband, Greg, is also a racer, and introduced her to the sport when they were dating. She's been at it for 26 years now, and says the best part is a tossup between the adrenaline rush during the race and the social aspect of the sport.

Improved Driving

"First time, I thought it was fun but hard. Mostly, (getting better) just takes driving," Fordahl says. "You have to do it a lot, like any sport."

Besides getting better at autocross racing, this kind of practice also makes them better drivers in general, autocross fans say.

"You have to use your brain to get through the course ... You can have a lot of fun at it but also learn a lot about your capabilities. It makes you a better driver on the road," says Barb Sykes, a Port Orchard resident who is in her second year of autocross.

Sykes says she has a competitive spirit, which compelled her to participate in sports while in high school. Now, autocross gives her that avenue. She recalls her first attempt coming in at 106 seconds when everyone else's time ran under 60. "You get better with time," she says.

"The one thing I like about it is that it's safety-conscious, making sure everyone has fun in a safe environment."

The Bremerton Sports Car Club is fairly informal as far as clubs go.

There are no longer any dues; the board of the nonprofit organization meets twice a month, alternating between Gig Harbor and Bremerton.

All club members can attend, and they even get free pizza.

The club, formed in 1973, currently has about 200 members from all over Puget Sound. In addition to the eight events per year between March and October, the BSCC hosts a "Slush Series" in the winter: rain, ice or snow (and, those who go to those, say the more rain or ice, the better).

Stolberg says getting in is easy: Any car will do except for vans and big pickups, and you can even drive someone else's car. "You get to take your car, or somebody else's car, to the limit and beyond. Then you realize, you can do this," he says. "That's what autocross is all about — to make you a better driver."

It costs \$25 or \$35 to race with BRCC and one Sunday morning or afternoon. "We're trying to encourage people to come out and do it," Sykes says. "It's cheaper than a round of golf and anybody can do it." That pretty much settles it.

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2008 By Rodika
Tollefson*





Gary "Soupy" Campbell died January 14, 2009, having been worn down by pancreatic cancer and its complications over the previous year. He was a Corvette enthusiast *extraordinaire*, a most dear friend of Corvettes de Olympia, and one of the motorsports world's leading all-around "characters." Rather than the usual grim obituary, here we present some personal recollections that describe the way the man lived his life to the fullest. Soupy, we know you're watching, and this is the way your Corvette friends remember you.

I first knew Soupy in the early 1980s when we were both members of Classical Glass Corvette Club in Tacoma. Soupy was driving a late C3 Corvette with the usual selection of then-popular accessories. They included dark tinted headlight covers, which seemed kind of strange on that car's retractable headlights. Why hide the headlights when they pop up and are supposed to be visible? Looking back now, those gadgets fit right in with all the general foolishness we were doing in those days.

Soupy was one of the prime agitators to get Classical Glass involved in a new event called "Red Jacket Night." Members would wear their club jackets (which were red) and gather on a Wednesday night at a specified tavern, club, or eatery with nothing to do except have fun. No business, no competition, no road run, no cafe racing, no nothing, just good times and pleasant company. Radical concept, it worked, and became very popular. Maybe someone could revive the event today. I also think the 21st century "Red Hat Ladies" stole the idea from Soupy and should have paid him royalties.

The business "Soupy's Vette Stuff" got started in that period, and in a most unusual manner. Somebody was on a long road trip with Soupy in the C3 and complained that it was impossible to take a nap in that narrow cramped cockpit. (Tell me about it!) Soupy designed a little round nap pillow that wedged in nicely between the passenger seat and the door, and got his mother to sew one up. Problem solved. Other people saw it and asked for copies and a new enterprise was born. He soon expanded into shirts, hats, trinkets and other Corvette lifestyle accessories. Soupy was an agent and reporter for Vette Vues Magazine and sold interior trim kits from Daytona Dash (he'd install them too, for the promise of a meal or party at your house.) Soupy's Vette Stuff was a vendor at car meets all over the west, and he produced event shirts for everybody, becoming a virtual Zora Arkus-Duntov of specialty Corvette and club clothing. One of Soupy's production shirts has a picture of my blue 2004 Corvette on it and for that I am honored.

Soupy's day job back then was at the Sears surplus store in Seattle. If you were looking for a dishwasher or something you just asked him to be on alert for when one came through. Then you'd get a phone call, "I've got your dishwasher here, but you come get it by 5:00 PM, because then I've got to put it on the sales floor and it will go fast." Worked for everybody, especially Sears. How many other merchants would do that for you?

His personalized license plate said "SOUPY," logically enough. On one trip his Corvette is barreling down a freeway in Northern California and he gets stopped by the Highway Patrol. The officer takes his license and

registration, but soon returns and says, "Pardon the inconvenience, sir, I didn't recognize you at first. Go on your way and please keep your speed down for us." But just who did the CHP officer think our Soupy was? Soupy Sales the old comedian? A bigwig from the Campbell's Soup Company? Someone else?

Classical Glass used to stage big Corvette displays inside Tacoma Mall. They'd invite other clubs, including CdeO, to bring their cars to add to the show. One year Jan & Mike Halliday of CdeO, hauled their fire-breathing C2 Corvette race car up there, sure to be a crowd pleaser. Early in the morning before the mall opened Soupy is working there uncovering cars and setting up displays. When he gets to the race car there is some wino homeless person strapped into the driver's seat, passed out behind the wheel, sleeping off an alcoholic stupor. He must have hidden in the mall when it closed and then crawled into the Corvette for a snooze. Mall security guards are about to eject him and Soupy says, "Give him one minute more; maybe he is about to take the checkered flag in his dreams."

We were on some club run to somewhere and we all stopped for a photo op at a scenic mountain waterfall. While we were standing by the road, Soupy said, "Heyyyy, Duncan, you're a man who needs a shirt like this." Whereupon he took off his shirt and handed it to me. There I am, standing with my mouth open, holding this sweaty T-shirt, watching a half-naked Soupy trotting back to his Corvette, and pondering the true meaning of "a man who would give you the shirt off his back."

It was dinnertime at an NCRS meet in Bend, Oregon. We're all exhausted from prepping and showing and judging restored classic Corvettes all day in the high desert sun. Soupy comes up and says, "Tonight you guys have got to come to this great little blues place I found downtown. It's a dump, but the music is outstanding and the bikers are really friendly." Yeah, right. Well, we went, his description was on the money, the main attraction was the Paul DeLay Blues Band, and thus was my introduction to hard-driving northwest blues music.

Most people know Soupy served his country in the U.S. Marines, but not everyone knows he was wounded on active duty. Was he shot while being a hero during some invasion, uprising, or skirmish? No, he took someone's errant small caliber bullet in his leg during target practice at the base firing range. That figures.

At one point Soupy got an early C4 Corvette coupe. I was riding with him down near Mount Bachelor, bright sunny day, beautiful winding road, roof off, and some fairly cool jazz (I think Art Farmer) playing on the stereo. Soupy turns to me with, "Hey, is this what life is all about or what?"

Soupy was at a major Corvette end-of-year banquet that had fabulous raffle prizes. He won a floor jack. Not one of those little \$19.95 toys made in the third world, but a great huge mother of a professional shop jack. Going home with his prize on a dark and lonely stretch of Interstate 5 he comes upon a car broken down at the roadside and stops to assist. The motorist says, "I have a flat tire, and my spare is OK, but my jack broke." Soupy says, "Pal, you are not going to believe this...."

We saw Soupy at the 2008 Yakima "Vette-A-Bration" meet. In the hotel lobby he and I both did a double take, neither of us expecting to find the other there. I knew Soupy had been gravely ill, and he knew that event had flown under CdeO's radar and our club didn't send many cars to attend. We threw our arms around each other, right there in front of everyone at the registration table, two old men guffawing through a great huge backslapping bear hug. What we left unmentioned was that we'd most likely never be able to do that again.

When we all get to that big Corvette meet in Heaven, we know the event shirts are going to be first class. "Soup's always cookin'."



Up Coming Events

- Feb
- Feb 7, 8th Corvette & High Performance Meet, Puyallup, WA 360 786-8844 or www.corvhp.com
- Feb 11th* CdeO Meeting, 7 PM, Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA
- Feb 14th* TCC Open House, Noon to 3 PM, Auburn, WA (Jon Cox 459-8658)
- Mar
- Mar 11th* CdeO Meeting, 7 PM, Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA
- Apr
- Apr 8th* CdeO Meeting, 7 PM, Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA
- May
- May 13th* CdeO Meeting, 7 PM, Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA

* indicates club sanctioned events counting toward membership requirements. If you have an idea for an event, bring it up.



President's Day
February 16th

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