

# Heartbeat of Olympia

Volume 35, Issue 1

January 2007

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## Team Alliance Chosen as Member of the Year



Each year at the club's Christmas party, the Chuck Brye Memorial "Member of the Year" Award is presented to deserving individuals who exemplify the true spirit of Corvettes de Olympia and dedication to making our club and the members around them better. All the members of the club vote on their choice as to who they feel should be awarded this honor. This year "Team Alliance", as they have become to be known, was chosen as the ones that best displayed those qualities. "Team Alliance" consists of Lee & Sherry Cousineau, Brian & Betsy Cousineau, and Denny & Josette Miller who all work together at Alliance Enterprises. Although it is not the first time the award has been awarded to more than one person, this is the first time it has been awarded to a group. But it is perfectly fitting to award this honor to them as a group. They have all been members of the club for several years and from the time they joined the club have participated non stop in all activities. Whether it is a day tour, a work party, an overnight trip, a club picnic, a car show, or a meeting, you can count on the fact that

"Team Alliance" will be there. They have opened their homes to club picnics and club outings. If there is a club function scheduled, you can count on the group to be there to support the activity and even though the times when they can only participate in part of the event due to business commitments, they are sure to be there for the time they are free. You can always count on them to not only support the activity but add to the fun with their attitudes and participation. When it comes to needing someone to carry a princess or a home coming couple, they are there. When the Christmas parade happens in cold, nasty rain and wind, they are all there ready to help the club insuring the club is not only well represented but the event is a success. It certainly makes the chore of chairing events much easier when you know you will have the support they bring each time. Congratulations to "Team Alliance" The award could not have been presented to a more deserving group.

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# Happy New Year

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 \$45.00. Monthly meetings are normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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 Scioli
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 Puntenev
2005	Vince Puntenev
2006	Vince Puntenev

## Next Meeting

**January 10th, 2007 7 PM**

**Tumwater Valley Bar & Grill, Tumwater, WA**

**President's Message**



By the time you read this we will have concluded a fabulous year and started yet another. There are several points that made it a very good year for me. First, all the great runs we had this year, they seem to get

better every year and I simply love attending them. The back pack drop was high on my list of memorable events. I can't tell you how excited I was when "Team Alliance" won Member (Members) of the Year. I can't think of many others that commit to as many events and always volunteer to help when ever asked. I can't conclude finishing out our year with out thanking our sponsors, with out them we would have a difficult time making ends meet.

Please make sure you have the January meeting on your calendar as we have a lot to go over. We will be nominating new officers for 2007, looking over our operating budget, and voting on a dues increase. It's important to have your views heard and your vote counted.

Last I want to thank you all for a great year; we really have a wonderful club with a terrific group of people. Vinnie



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Thinking of investing in a navigational system for that next Corvette cross country road trip? There are a few things to understand about how all it works.

The navigational systems gain their positioning abilities from GPS (Global Positioning System), a satellite-based navigation system made up of a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit by the U.S. Department of Defense. GPS was originally intended for military applications, but in the 1980s, the government made the system available for civilian use. GPS works in any weather conditions, anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. There are no subscription fees or setup charges to use GPS. The 24 satellites that make up the GPS space segment are orbiting the earth about 12,000 miles above us. They are constantly moving, making two complete orbits in less than 24 hours. These satellites are traveling at speeds of roughly 7,000 miles an hour. GPS satellites are powered by solar energy and have backup batteries onboard to keep them running in the event of a solar eclipse, when there's no solar power. Small rocket boosters on each satellite keep them flying in the correct path. Here are some other interesting facts about the GPS satellites (also called NAVSTAR, the official U.S. Department of Defense name for GPS):

- The first GPS satellite was launched in 1978.
- A full constellation of 24 satellites was achieved in 1994.
- Each satellite is built to last about 10 years. Replacements are constantly being built and launched into orbit.
- A GPS satellite weighs approximately 2,000 pounds and is about 17 feet across with the solar panels extended.
- Transmitter power is only 50 watts or less.

GPS satellites transmit signal information to earth. GPS receivers take this information and use triangulation to calculate the user's exact location. Essentially, the GPS receiver compares the time a signal was transmitted by a satellite with the time it was received. The time difference tells the GPS receiver how far away the satellite is and with distance measurements from a few more satellites, the receiver can determine the user's position and display it on the unit's electronic map

A GPS receiver must be locked on to the signal of at least three satellites to calculate a 2D position (latitude and longitude) and track movement. With four or more satellites in view, the receiver can determine the user's 3D position (latitude, longitude and altitude). Once the user's position has been determined, the GPS unit can calculate other information, such as speed, bearing, track, trip distance, distance to destination, sunrise and sunset time and more. Today's GPS receivers are extremely accurate. Most systems are quick to lock onto satellites and can maintain strong locks, even in dense foliage or urban settings with tall buildings. Certain atmospheric factors and other sources of error can affect the accuracy of GPS receivers, however, most receivers are accurate to within 15 meters on average.

There are some factors that can degrade the GPS signal and thus affect accuracy. *Ionosphere and troposphere delays* — The satellite signal slows as it passes through the atmosphere. The GPS system uses a built-in model that calculates an average amount of delay to partially correct for this type of error. *Signal multi-path* — This oc-

curs when the GPS signal is reflected off objects such as tall buildings or large rock surfaces before it reaches the receiver. This increases the travel time of the signal, thereby causing errors. *Receiver clock errors* — A receiver's built-in clock is not as accurate as the atomic clocks onboard the GPS satellites. Therefore, it may have very slight timing errors.

*Orbital errors*— these are inaccuracies of the satellite's reported location. *Number of satellites visible* — The more satellites a GPS receiver can "see," the better the accuracy. Buildings, terrain, electronic interference, or sometimes even dense foliage can block signal reception, causing position errors or possibly no position reading at all. GPS units typically will not work indoors, underwater or underground. *Satellite geometry/shading* — This refers to the relative position of the satellites at any given time. Ideal satellite geometry exists when the satellites are located at wide angles relative to each other. Poor geometry results when the satellites are located in a line or in a tight grouping. *Intentional degradation of the satellite signal* — Selective Availability (SA) is an intentional degradation of the signal once imposed by the U.S. Department of Defense. SA was intended to prevent military adversaries from using the highly accurate GPS signals. The government turned off SA in May 2000, which significantly improved the accuracy of civilian GPS receivers.

There are several companies that offer GPS Navigational mobile or mounted systems. Most contain software with road maps of the US and other countries. Many can quickly re-route you in the event of either a traffic delay or error in following directions. A Google search will locate many options. Prices range from \$200 to well over \$1000 depending on options. Many will list nearby restaurants, service stations, and hotels. All that is left is learning to believe them and accepting their assistance.

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Although Mother Nature attempted to disrupt the Annual CdeO Christmas Party, she did not succeed. The huge wind storm that knocked power out for an estimated 1.5 million users in the northwest was not enough to dampen the spirits nor kill the attendance at our annual festive gathering. Only a few of the members were unable to attend due to the lack of electricity and power had been restored to the hosting restaurant late the previous day so everything was a go.



About 5 PM, CdeO members, dressed in their holiday finest, began to arrive at Chamber's House Restaurant at Panorama City, the site of this year's event. An open bar and warm fireplace greeted everyone

and those still without power were most interested in those features since the outside temperatures were below freezing. No power meant your inside temperatures were about the same as outside unless you had an alternative means of warming your home. But those concerns were forgotten with all the happy chatter and joking between club members.

The gift table piled higher and higher as the packages were laid there for later distribution. About 6 PM, when the buffet meal was ready, President Vinnie greeted the group and the lines formed at the food. Funny thing, it was a whole lot quieter



when the buffet opened. The meal included salad, green beans, rolls, scalloped potatoes, dressing, turkey, ham, and gravy. Dessert was cheese cake or chocolate pie with lots of coffee and of course the bar was still open. There was little need for talking at this point and of course, it's not polite to talk with a mouth full of turkey.



After the feeding frenzy, ballots were passed out for the Member of the Year Award voting and as the results were being tallied, President Vinnie took the time to thank our sponsors and several others in the club for their contribution to the success of the club over the past year. Even though it takes every member in the club to make the club a success, the sponsors make it possible. Our dues only go so far to cover the expenses of the organization and the sponsors take up the slack.



While the votes were being counted, each member drew a number for the annual gift exchange. When the votes were tallied, "Team Alliance" was presented the Chuck Brye Member of the Year Award. They are a very deserving group and an asset to the club. Next the gift war commenced.

After a coin flip, it was determined that the order would be large numbers first counting down to number 1. As usual, when each number comes up, that participant had the choice of picking and opening a gift from the table or stealing an already opened gift from one someone else. The only rules were you could not take something

back immediately and if the gift had traveled to more than one owner, the third owner was entitled to keep the item



and it was no longer considered stealable. Now this meant counting and paying attention, after four glasses of wine! It seems that there are some central themes in our club when it comes to gifting. The theme is alcohol! Specifically Irish Cream! At last count there were about a dozen bottles of Irish Cream floating around the tables. Now I say floating around because they traveled from owner to owner on a fairly regular basis, finally coming to rest when they were taken for the third time and retired. Keeping track of which one was on its third leg and ready to retire

took some diligence since the owners were a bit reluctant to admit their bottle was still "on the table".



In most cases someone else had to spill the beans. As the evening progressed several partici-



pants had to make multiple trips to the gift table as their loot was continually being raided. I lost count of the times Russ was looted for his gift, he probably lost 5 or 6 bottles of Irish Cream before ending up with a floor mat for his garage. Sugar was up and down so many times from her chair she needed a sports therapist to tend to her sore legs. I lost track of what she left with when the dust settled. Nearly everyone's gift was taken at one point with the sole exception of one. Lynus had it figured out, pick a gift no one else wants and stay with it! His lotus candle did not move despite several offers. Finally, when Mary Alice chose a gift from the table and opened another candle did the sensibility of the choice come clear. There is a power shortage! No electricity - no lights! And you thought he made a mistake! For shame! For shame!

Ed was another that seemed to have a knack for choosing gift that everyone else wanted as his was looted numerous times and Linda W. had a nose for Irish Cream. She opened several gifts each con-



taining bottles. At one point, both her and Russ had matching bottles. Russ settled for a bottle of Starbuck Coffee Liquor after loosing his Irish Cream. Rich lost his bottle of whiskey and ended up with a laser parking guide, probably a better deal for him anyway. You can't see to park after a bottle of Crown Royal.

I have to admit there was some ruthless raiding, . Sugar took a gift from a guy in a wheel chair and when someone said "I can't believe you did that to a guy with a disability", her reply was "Believe it!" Among gifts that went out of play early were a C5 wall clock, a Corvette Monopoly Board Game, each bottle of Irish Cream in turn, several assorted baskets, a rolling stool for the shop, and most anything else alcoholic. Dana ended the gifting session when she finally opened the last gift, a Corvette calendar. All in all, it was great fun and the jokes and comments were priceless. All the rest was just gift wrapping! The only thing left was to head out into the frigid cold to return to homes that hopefully had power and water.



Congratulation to the winners of the Member of the Year Award. Merry Christmas to all. We'll do it again!



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## Automotive Best Buys

Thirty-two vehicles and seven companion models received Best Buy ratings from Consumers Digest magazine out of 268 total for the 2006 model year. The ratings, published in CD's December issue (on sale November 1), span eight categories: Small Cars, Family Cars, Luxury Cars, Sporty Cars, Trucks, Vans, Compact/Midsize SUVs and Luxury/Full- Size SUVs. The Best Buys -- based on behind-the-wheel testing, safety ratings, ownership costs, warranty, purchase price, comfort, ergonomics, styling and amenities -- reflect CD's assessment of which 2006 vehicles offer the most value for the money.

Five "Small Cars" received Best Buys: Chevrolet HHR, Honda Civic, Kia Spectra, Scion xB and Volkswagen Jetta.

Six "Family Car" Best Buys are: Dodge Charger/Magnum, Ford Five Hundred, Honda Accord, Hyundai Sonata, Mercury Montego and Toyota Camry/Solara.

Four "Luxury Cars" received Best Buy ratings: Acura TL, Cadillac DTS, Chrysler 300C and Toyota Avalon.

Among five "Sporty Cars" receiving Best Buys are Acura RSX, **Chevrolet Corvette**, Ford Mustang, MINI Cooper and Scion tC.

Three "Trucks" and four "Vans" earned Best Buys. Ford F-150, Honda Ridgeline and Nissan Frontier are the top pickups, and Chrysler's Town & Country, Dodge's Caravan, Honda's Odyssey and Nissan's Quest are recognized as the best van values.

SUVs are divided into compact/midsize and luxury/full-size models. Of the former, seven Best Buys include: Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape, Ford Explorer, Mazda Tribute, Mercury Mariner, Mercury Mountaineer and Toyota Highlander. Luxury/full-size SUV Best Buys include Chevrolet Tahoe, GMC Yukon, Mercedes-Benz ML350/ML500 and Volkswagen Touareg.

"Value,' as we see it, is based on purchase price and ownership costs relative to more subjective factors, like comfort and design," says Randy Weber, CD's publisher. Design factors include ergonomics, seating, accessories and cargo space.

Performance characteristics evaluated comprise starting and acceleration, shifting, steering and handling, braking, ride quality and fuel economy.

Twenty of 39 Best Buy models are new to the list for this year. CD views this positively -- a reflection of auto-industry shifts in perspective on design, quality, performance and value. "It appears automakers are

more willing to invest in new designs that set aside convention to satisfy consumer desires," says Rich Dzierwa, managing editor.

The Best Buys section of the issue includes photos, "list" and "invoice" prices, features and performance traits that support the models' Best Buy selection in the collective opinion of CD's veteran automotive editors: Jim Gorzelany, Kevin Kelly, Jim Mateja and Matt Nauman.

"Few purchases are more important, or require more research, than buying a new vehicle," says Weber. "Our analyses underscore our commitment to ensure consumers are as satisfied with their auto purchase years after making it as they were on the day they drove off the lot."

Consumers Digest, launched in 1959, is designed to inform and educate readers so they can buy with confidence, no matter the product or service. The magazine is committed to providing practical advice, factual evaluations and specific recommendations, leading consumers to exceptional values in today's complex marketplace.

*Printed from Daily Gameplan News*



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### Upcoming Events

- Jan 07
- Jan 10th\*      CdeO meeting, 7 PM Tumwater Valley Bar & Grill, Tumwater WA.
- Feb
- Feb 14th\*      CdeO meeting, 7 PM Tumwater Valley Bar & Grill, Tumwater, WA
- Mar
- Mar 14th\*      CdeO meeting, 7 PM Tumwater Valley Bar & Grill, Tumwater, WA
- Mar ??\*      Lions Pancake Breakfast & Car Show, North Thurston High School, Lacey, WA

\* indicates Club sanctioned events that count for membership qualifications. For more information and additional events, visit <http://www/corvettesdeolympia.org>

### The Snow Plow

It was snowing heavily and blowing to the point that visibility was almost zero when Olga got off work. She made her way to her car and wondered how she was going to make it home. She sat in her car while it warmed up and thought about her situation. She remembered Ole's advice that if she got caught in a blizzard, she should wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it. This made her feel much better and sure enough in a little while, a snow plow went by, and she started to follow it. As she followed the snow plow, she was feeling very smug as they continued, and she was not having any problems with the conditions. After quite sometime had passed, she was somewhat surprised when the snow plow stopped and the driver got out and came back to her car and signaled her to roll down her window. The snow plow driver wanted to know if she was all right, as she had been following him for a long time. She said that she was fine and told him of Ole's advice. The driver replied that it was OK

with him, and she could continue if she wanted...but he was done with the Wal-Mart parking lot and was going over to Kmart next.



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