

# Heartbeat of Olympia

Volume 37, Issue 1

2008 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

January 2009

Duncan Johnson

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Each year the members of Corvettes de Olympia elect the person they feel most represents the spirit of the Chuck Brye Memorial Award. Chuck was a former member who was killed in an industrial accident several years ago. He was an individual dedicated to enjoying his Corvette and others around him and always willing to help a friend or person in need, giving of his time and energy to insure others around him shared in the fun and good times. He was enthusiastic and committed to making the club a success. In his honor, the Chuck Brye Memorial Traveling Award was created and each year awarded to a deserving club member. This year, that award and honor went to Duncan Johnson.



the one to ask. He is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge and unlike a lot of us, able to access all of the knowledge at a moment's notice. Duncan appreciates cars in general and professes to be a Genuinely Dedicated Motorhead. Duncan has a garage full of Corvettes in addition to several other collector cars. Most of his Corvettes were new purchases at the time of manufacture and Duncan has never parted company with them. Although his latest addition to the stable is a 2004 Lemans Commemorative Convertible, it is not uncommon for him to show up at a club function in his C2 coupe or C3 convertible. Each of these vehicles have their own name and truly are a member of his family. So now you realize why they never moved out.

Duncan has been a member of Corvettes de Olympia for many years and has been a great asset to the club. His energy and guidance has helped in many situations and numerous club decisions. Duncan has a remarkable memory for club history and by laws which has been invaluable in so many circumstances the club has encountered. He is the go to guy for advice on the club by laws and constitution and able to offer suggestions to the options the club can choose.

Duncan and Dee are also members of a Miata club and contribute considerable energy to the activities of that club. He and Dee tour in either the Corvette or Miata and recently completed a "tour" of the USA, one to the east coast and another to the southwest. His contributions to the club newsletter offer re-counts of these excursions and other club activities in a very entertaining manner and are fun to read. Duncan has several times chaired the All City Rally and has been an aid to many other RallyMasters over the years. His willingness to pitch in has been a comfort to many struggling chairperson in the past and his 'can do' attitude is much appreciated. He is quick to praise, long on support, and careful in his criticism of any club activity. He is an excellent ambassador of CdeO and represents us well.

In addition to his club knowledge, his knowledge of motorsports, Corvettes, and collector cars in general is legendary. If you need an obscure fact, specification, or just general information on a vehicle nearly from the time the combustion engine was first placed under the hood of a buggy, Duncan is

Duncan joins a long list of dedicated former honorees on the plaques. Congratulations to Duncan Johnson, 2008 Member of the Year.



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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](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 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 Puntaney
- 2005 Vince Puntaney
- 2006 Vince Puntaney
- 2007 Brian Cousineau

# Next meeting

**Wed, January 14th, 2009 7 PM**  
**Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA**  
**( Nominations for 2009 CdeO Officers)**

## President's Message



Congratulations to DUNCAN JOHNSON, member of the year 2008. Duncan is one of our longest served members of C de O. And with that he brings a wealth of wisdom about the club and probably knows the Constitution and By Laws better than any member. Duncan is always willing to serve on any committee or

all of you that donated items, made baskets, cookies, donated dinners, and got items donated. Last, but not least to the bidders and recipients of the auctioned items. January meeting will be at Hawks Prairie, the 14th. Nominations for 2009 officers will open and conclude at the February meeting. Let's show our competitive side and get a real election going. Have a safe and Happy New Year. Save the wave, Peggy

activity the club is doing. Put a Rally in front of him, and he is on the back roads searching for the most obscure clues and newest route to get there. Corvette knowledge, he probably wrote the book or at least offered. Our monthly newsletter always has an article of interest from Duncan, which is a huge help for Randy. Some months it gets hard to get enough items of interest, so again, Duncan is there to contribute. Join me in Congratulating Duncan, member of the year 2008. 49 members attended the Christmas Party. We did our 1st auction to raise money for the Scholarship fund and had secretly hoped to bring in about 500 to 600 dollars. We made a whopping \$1670. And in less than an hour. The bidding or outbidding was fun and certainly was competitive. Thanks to



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## In Memoriam Mike Vandiver

Mike Vandiver, CdeO member and former Tumwater Chief of Police, passed away at his home December 9th after battling leukemia for several years. Mike was 64 years old and was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 1999, but continued to work as police chief for about seven years after his diagnosis. He was well known and respected throughout the law enforcement community and those who worked with him until his retirement in 2006 remember him as a fun loving individual, always ready to allow others to grow and learn, and willing to approach situations from a new angle. "Mike was credited with bringing the Tumwater Police Department kicking and screaming into the 20th century" says current Tumwater Police Chief John Stines. "The one thing that especially now that I've really come to appreciate about him is he really gave people chances and opportunities to excel, and even to make mistakes," Stines said. "Part of growth is making mistakes, and he really allowed for that. ... He always gave people the benefit of the doubt that they were going to do the right thing."

Tumwater City Council member Neil McClanahan, who was friends with Mike dating to when McClanahan was a lieutenant with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, said he was respected and admired for his courage in the face of his leukemia diagnosis.

Mike was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 1999 and worked as police chief for about seven years after his diagnosis. He joined Corvettes de Olympia early in 2008 with his wife, Kathe, and took part in many of the club activities. His attitude was always upbeat and enthusiastic. He enjoyed driving his red '05 coupe and was a positive addition to the group.

He is survived by his wife, two adult children and two grandchildren. Although Mike was only a member for a short time, he will be missed by the club members.



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### Do You Know What's Up?

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.'

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP....

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP..

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so..... it is time to shut UP!

Oh... One more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning & the last thing you do at night? U-P



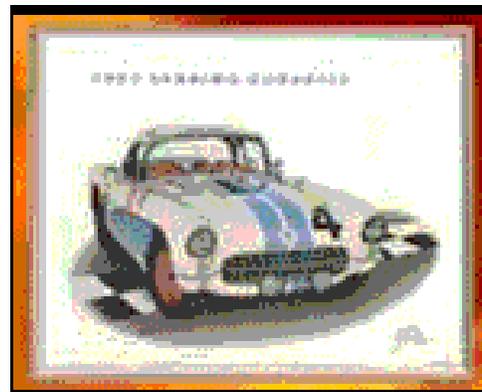
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## 2008 CDEO Christmas party

The Annual Olympia Downtown Christmas Parade was held on November 30th, 2008 and like the last several years, CdeO was there to help bring Santa Claus to the Olympia community. Sponsored by the Olympia Downtown Association, this marks the official start of the local holiday season and regardless of the weather, always brings out a nice crowd of spectators dressed in mittens, ear muffs, and umbrellas. However, this year the umbrellas were not open. It was chilly, damp, and overcast, but nothing was dripping from the sky. Over the years, there has been just about every type of weather available to the area short of snow. Last year was sunny but the year before was cold and wet, but only the



weather because the spirits were warm and cozy. 17 cars showed up for the parade up 4th Ave starting at the Farmer's Market and ending at Sylvester Park where hot chocolate was ready for

those so inclined and a tree lighting ceremony ready to commence. Among the CdeO group were some new faces, both people and cars.

Lee and Terry introduced a new playmate to the group, a 2001 triple black convertible that they had just picked up earlier in the week. Big difference between their C3 and the C5 and they were still getting used to that so they brought both cars. The new one seemed like a good fit and got along well with the others just like good

school yard playmates should. Looks like it's a keeper.

It also appears that Santa has lots of helpers in the club as everyone was sporting elf's hats, some even had sprouted horns. Well, I guess they were horns, or they were alien antennas. You'd have to ask Denny and Shar, they were the ones with the strange things sticking up through the T-tops above the windshield. You'd have to be the judge I suppose.

The parade started as usual with a show by the Tenino Motorcycle Drill team and then came the 'Official Santa Claus'. CdeO has been lucky in the past with an entry number near the front but this year it finally caught up with us, we were number 46. There were several entries behind us so the parade was a respectable size. As



was the crowd. Near the downtown areas, the street was packed, almost like you would imagine for Lakefair. I am sure the weather helped some but the turnout was stellar. Lots of children of all ages there to welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Olympia and watch the tree lighting happen in the park.

The parade attracts a real assortment of entries from animals to floats and fortunately, we did not have to dodge the exhaust from a mounted group, even though we were towards the end of the parade. We only had to dodge a group of



Honda Goldwings where in front of us. That's pretty easy to do, considering the experience we have with hay burners output. Was a fun afternoon and a great way to kick off the holiday season, welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Olympia, and delight kids, young and old.

### And now a word from Duncan

I have been officially informed that the CdeO membership voted me the Member Of The Year for 2008. Thank you! I am grateful, and a bit amazed.

Amazed because this year it seems we attended only a handful of CdeO events and worked even fewer. But what we did manage to bumble into was representing CdeO at events far and wide that weren't sponsored by any of our own clubs, things like the Yakima Vette-A-Bration, the Tahoe Tour, and the Route 66 Rendezvous. Also this season our old cars ALL

made it to a raft of runs, shows and cruise-ins, so we just plain had fun living CdeO's "Spirit of Corvetting" for everyone to see.

The names inscribed on the CdeO member-of-the-year plaque go back many, many years, and a number of the people went on to be legends in this great motor hobby in the Northwest and beyond. It is an honor to be included there.

Save the wave,

--- Duncan

"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow" That could have been the theme of the 2008 CdeO Christmas party on December 20th. Because it was certainly snowing that night and had been snowing for several days before. In fact, more was predicted for the following days. A Winter Wonderland for sure. With about a foot of snow on the ground, the hearty partiers still ventured out into the cold and showed up at Chamber's



House Restaurant to make merry. There was a board hastily made up to guess how many people would show up and out of 54 people that signed up, 49 were there. Only 5 individuals were unable to attend. And some traveled a considerable distance to be there. Way to go! Take that, Mother Nature!

So after a social hour the silent auction began. After a club decision to suspend the All City Rally which provides funds for the scholarship at South Puget Sound Community College, a silent auction was scheduled for the Christmas party and the proceeds would go to the scholarship fund. Among the items offered were several baskets containing different collections of related items, all very nicely arranged and consolidated. There was also room packages for overnight stays at a couple of different hotels, two a catered

meals by Vinnie, apparel, and Russian Tea Cakes. The baskets were assembled and donated by various groups of people in CdeO. The bidding was Emceed by Vinnie and the action was fast, fun, and furious! CdeO members were very generous and by the end of the night over \$1700 was raised for the scholarship



fund. This is more than the amount generally raised by the clubs efforts at the All City Rally. Not bad for an evening of fun and games and the opportunity to leave with some nice items. Thank you Peggy for suggesting and dreaming up the auction, to Vinnie for his work as Auctioneer, and to CdeO members for opening their wallets to support the activity. Although there were members who left as winners of items, the real winners are the recipients of the scholarships at the college. CdeO proves once again what an asset to the community they really are. Once the auction had concluded, dinner was served buffet style. Ham, turkey, salad, vegetables, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, and rolls made a very tasty meal. Following the meal, partiers had a choice of apple or pumpkin pie for desert. No one left hungry.



While desert was being served, numbers were drawn for the Annual Gift Exchange and once again high numbers led off the games. As before, the first person chooses a gift from the tree and opens it and each successive numbers have the opportunity to either take a new gift or steal one already open from a previous player. This year the rule was that once a gift had been stolen twice, it was no longer eligible for stealing and the last person who had taken the gift was the owner.

Of course, the popular gifts soon began to emerge and as you would guess, the most popular had something to do with alcohol although there were some Corvette models that made the rounds. Irish Cream, Tequila, whisky, wine, and Kaluha soon began to travel from table to table. Since there were more than one of most of these items, keeping track of what was still eligible and what was already spoken for took a bit of work but those with an eye on a certain item were more than willing to invest the brain power to keep track. There was a bit of cooperation between



families in order to insure the correct gift ended up in the right hands but the work to make that happened was something to behold. Just when you thought you had it figured out, someone else became involved with the stealing and your focus had to change to either another gift or another route. Several

members made many trips to the tree as their gifts were continually being taken. Jeff and Brian were constant visitors to the tree in addition to surveying the assortment of open gifts. How it generally works is you keep opening gifts until you open one that is not so popular and everyone leaves you alone. If you open one that is popular, it will probably be stolen from you. The best you can hope for is to snag something popular before it is retired by the twice stolen rule and retire it yourself.

In the end, it was a whole lot of fun and there were some very nice gifts. Leo was the last person to open a gift and once that is done, the game is over. The party broke up shortly after that due to the heavy snow coming down and the concerns about getting home safely. The party was a great success and everyone had a lot of fun.



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**Up Coming Events**

- Jan**
- Jan 14th\* CdeO Meeting, 7 PM, Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA
- 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
- Mar**
- Mar 11th\* CdeO Meeting, 7 PM, Hawks Prairie Restaurant, Lacey, WA
- Apr**
- Apr 8th\* 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.

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