



## THE VETTE GAZETTE

For those that missed the great auto cross at PPIR what a great event, I made it up on Sunday for a few hours, and had a great time. Mr. Adams sent me an E-mail that summed up how much passion he and I am sure all Corvette owners shares for there one of a kind auto's. As I was reading his story I really enjoyed reading his story and how vivid the story becomes as you read it. Great story and I have read it a dozen or so times!

### *The Beast Within...*

Corvettes are beautiful cars. The lines flow like sand dunes driven by the wind, like the exquisite curves of Raquel Welch, like the subtle lines of a stream flowing down a hillside. I have yet to



meet a Corvette owner who has not been seduced by the beauty of their Corvette – any Corvette. Opening the door of a Corvette is like an engraved invitation into a world of being cuddled, held gently and invited into a quiet place amid all the noise and glare of this world. It's a getaway. But not a forgotten getaway, nor an unnoticed hideaway. It's a place where others notice. Where others turn their heads and watch it come and go through their lives. It's almost as though others sense something very special about a dreamed-of opportunity to actually pass through a bit of life in a Corvette. There's a quiet excitement about being in a Corvette on the streets.

But something lurks just under the skin. It's like a werewolf. It appears to be a car, but there's a beast's heartbeat so close to the surface. There is a beast within. And it's good to let the beast out to play every once in a while. I most emphatically deny that beast on the streets. That's no place to let it out. There are too many bad things so close and unseen on the streets.



Lucky for us there are tracks to let our beasts run wild. Even tracks like cones in a parking lot. A big, big parking lot. It's been a couple years since I've let my beast loose, but I had the chance last weekend with a school on Saturday where I was able to get in tune with that beast once again. Where I learned again something of being smooth with the raw power and amazing grip of a Corvette where not only acceleration, but heavy braking and hard cornering all come into balance. Several times I took time just looked at the Ying and Yang on my rear window and reflected on the need for balance,

especially when living on the edge of control. And again I heard the beast within my car whisper, "I've got more. Do you want more? I've got it." And still, the car has more capability than I have skill. But maybe I got better at it. Sunday's races saw me being very consistent with my times and surprisingly competitive, given that my track tires have turned to stone while sitting for years in the corner of my garage.

On my way home Sunday afternoon, I was at peace with the world in a way I haven't felt in a long time. I had pushed myself and my car. I had grown in ability, but mostly, I did find some balance with the beast which still lurks just beneath the paint. What tough, rugged, sophisticated, balanced and capable cars these are! As I write this the morning after, I feel balance in life like I haven't felt for a while. I feel capable of dealing with the noise and glare, able to deal with whatever comes at me and able to hold a heading through it all. Marvelous, what a great time with a great car can do for you.

Bob Adams.

Dennis also wanted to share his experience with the rest of the club as he got more connected with his car his is what he had to share!

### **Autocross 101**

I finally decided that it was time to try Autocross so I enrolled in the CSCC Autocross school on Saturday April 28 and then the Autocross event on Sunday April 29. I had read about Autocross and talked with others who had done it....but until I actually did it I didn't have a good understanding of what it was like. Let me tell you....it is lots of fun.....I will definitely be doing this again. The school was great as it let us novice racers get a feel for what was in store and also gave us some very good helpful hints on what we needed to do to be successful.



The CSCC has put this event on for a few years.....I had seen it on the calendar in the past but wasn't sure that it was something I wanted to do. But once I was there I knew it was meant to be. The instructors at the school would ride along with me and give me pointers and tips as

we drove through the various exercises. The first time through one of the four exercises I had no idea where the "gates" were....it looked like a bunch of cones sitting out in a parking lot. It didn't take long for me to pick up where the car needed to be to make it through the run. Once the layout was familiar then it was time to add some speed to the process. As you might imagine once the speed increased the fun level also increased.

The CSCC provided lunch for everyone and in the late afternoon set up a mock Autocross course and let people try it out. The school is definitely something to take advantage of. There were several drivers with lots of experience that were attending the school to work on improving some of their driving skills as well as the beginners like myself who were getting their feet wet.

Sunday was a beautiful day and there were about 60 cars ready to race. Due to some time clock issues the first group had to re-run a few times.....so our group (the second group) didn't get into

the grid until 12:30...I was about the 20<sup>th</sup> car to go.....my first time was 99 seconds....not too bad but I knew I could do better.....my second run was much better as I knocked off 5 seconds to post a 94. My third and final run



was starting off pretty good....when some loose papers came flying from the rear compartment up into the driver's area.....I grabbed them one at a time and wadded them up...but my good run was no longer a good run. Now I know why they said no loose items in the car. But one thing was constant in all three runs.....I had a huge smile on my face!

I took some pictures on Sunday of the staging area and the cars from our club that were there to race. I came away from the weekend with a much better feeling for how our car handles when put to the test. I also have a much better understanding of my current driving skills and I feel more confident behind the wheel. I would recommend this event to everyone in our club.



**MONTEREY, Calif.** - Corvette Racing broke its victory drought at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in convincing fashion today, sweeping the fiercely competitive GT class with a one-two finish in the six-hour American Le Mans Series Monterey. It was the team's first victory at the central California circuit since a win in the GT1 class in 2008, and its first one-two finish since moving to the GT class in 2009.

Oliver Gavin and Tommy Milner scored their second straight victory in the No. 4 Compuware Corvette C6.R by a 3.45-second margin over their teammates Jan Magnussen and Antonio Garcia in the sister No. 3 Compuware Corvette C6.R. The winning Corvette drivers completed 232 laps after rebounding from a troubled pit stop that dropped them to seventh place at the midpoint of the race.

Today's win was the 36th career ALMS victory for Gavin, and the second for Milner after the pair won one month ago in the streets of Long Beach. The victory vaulted Gavin and Milner into first place in the GT driver standings and gave Chevrolet the lead in the manufacturers championship after three of 10 rounds. Corvette Racing has now notched 83 class wins and 55 one-two finishes

Corvette Racing's next event is the Test Day in Le Mans, France, on June 3, followed by the 24 Hours of Le Mans on June 16-17.

### **American Le Mans Series Monterey GT Results (Top 10)**

Pos./Car No./Drivers/Car/Laps

- 1. 4 Gavin/Milner, Corvette C6.R, 232**
- 2. 3 Magnussen/Garcia, Corvette C6.R, 232**
- 3. 55 J. Mueller/Auberlen, BMW E92 M3, 232**

4. 56 D. Mueller/Hand, BMW E92 M3, 232
5. 01 Sharp/van Overbeek, Ferrari 458 Italia, 232
6. 45 Bergmeister/Long, Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, 232
7. 17 Henzler/Sellers, Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, 232
8. 007 Fernandez/Turner/Mucke, Aston Martin Vantage, 230
9. 44 Neiman/Holzer, Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, 230
10. 48 Miller/Maassen, Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, 229



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