

N.F.C.A. HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Several people have asked how the North Florida Corvette Association, Incorporated, was originally organized. It would be an impossible task to mention everything involved in the organization of this club. However, the following is a brief history of how N.F.C.A. had its beginnings.

The North Florida Corvette Association, Incorporated, was formed by three individuals, Ray Suggs, Jerry Stegar, and Mike Fraser. The meetings were held every Wednesday night at Ray's home. Attendance averaged between 8 and 10 per meeting which is a far cry from present meetings. News of the club spread rapidly amongst Corvette owners by word of mouth and with the help of radio stations. The first official meeting was held on August 12, 1964, with sixteen people in attendance. These sixteen became the charter members and are Bob McCleary, Gordon Griffin, Norman Griffin, Bert Zater, Mike Fraser, Tommy Smith, Larry Pittman, Herbert Sands, Bill Luting, Jerry Stegar, Ray Suggs, Pat Patterson, Larry Clem, Jerry Gibson, Bruce Morris, and Bob Clark. Ray Suggs was elected as the first president, a bank account was established, and N.F.C.A. was on its way.

September 15, 1964 was the next big day for N.F.C.A. as John Deihl Chevrolet became its first sponsor. Mr. Deihl spoke to the members and expressed his feelings toward the club. His friendliness was overwhelmingly accepted by the membership. Mr. Deihl assisted the club in every way he could and without this cooperation it would have been very difficult to continue.

In 1967 N.F.C.A. became a member of the National Council of Corvette Clubs. This affiliation has helped the club mature and gain valuable experience. This move was initiated by Cliff Payne who should be recognized for his steady work as governor for the club in the National Council. Just two years later in July, 1969, N.F.C.A. sponsored the N.C.C.C. National Convention in Daytona Beach. Over 650 N.C.C.C. members and guests enjoyed a great Convention and a speed event which was held on the Daytona International Speedway.

Also in 1967, N.F.C.A. changed sponsors. The move was made to Gordon Thompson Chevrolet. Mr. Gordon Thompson, Jr., has proved on many occasions his great interest in N.F.C.A. Our club has become so large that we now are receiving a budget from Gordon Thompson Chevrolet. Mr. Thompson has worked very closely with our current president, Phil Wood. No club could ask for a better relationship with their sponsor than that which N.F.C.A. enjoys.