



JOAN THOMAS

*Northern Illinois Corvette Club
Midwest Region*

Corvette used for competition: 1986 Z51 Black Coupe and a 1993 Ruby Red 40th Anniversary Coup



Favorite type of event: Low Speed. I find them very personally challenging. I participate in mostly Low Speed events and I have not yet met a course I didn't like. I always end an event feeling that I could get a better time if I could run the course just one more time... and then just maybe one more time... and then one more... and then.

Personal information: After many years in the business world, I no longer work outside the home. I am in the process of settling into some new adventures and am enjoying the time to garden, work (and play) on the computer, spend time with family and Barney, the racing dog, and of course make plans for our travels each weekend to some NCCC event.

What made you decide to compete for points? I never really set out to "compete for points." After traveling to Eddyville, Iowa in the West Region on Mother's Day, 1998, and having such a great time. Jim and I decided we would like to go to events somewhere every weekend that we could for the rest of the year. So he and I and Barney hopped in the truck and started going all over the place. We tried our best to make all of the Midwest Region events and if there were no events scheduled in the Midwest, we were off to one of the other regions. Come September, we discovered that I was in first place in the national standings and had a good chance of ending up in first place. Only then did points make a difference. By December, when we were done competing for 1998, we had competed in 10 different regions in 14 different states and loved every minute and mile.

Advice for anyone wanting to compete at the national level: Try to go somewhere every weekend. Compete for the love of competition. Don't let "running for points" get in the way of having a good time. Smile a lot. Make a commitment and go for it. Remember that events in your own region also earn national points. Support your own region first and then travel to other regions as much as possible. Each region has its own personality and they all love competitors from other regions. Take time to thank the host club(s) before you leave. They made it possible.