

# #1

## Carolyn Samuelson

Northern Illinois CC / Midwest Region

What a great year! I am so fortunate to do what I enjoy most—racing my red Z06. The last time I won a national championship was 1992. Started me to think what I accomplished since then and where those 21 years have gone. Dale & I built a new home, saw the birth of our two grandchildren, added a couple of Corvettes to our collection, both recently retired, and much more. But the love for racing and our involvement and commitment to Northern Illinois CC and NCCC since 1979 has always been a priority for us. Our children, David & Kristi, still remember being “dragged” to car shows and speed events with the Bailey boys. Good memories.....

I never imagined racing out of region every weekend and spending so much time down south. Mary Wentzel and Teresa Eller mentioned running for national points. I was not even considering it until I realized in August that I was fairly close. After Dale & I went to Maryland for a car show September 7<sup>th</sup>, I decided (with my non-competitive nature???) I would make a run for it.

When I received the title in 1992, with 1486 points, the regions had 3 or 4 competitive events per day. Maybe 8 all weekend if lucky. We have really upped the ante. Now with 14 event weekends I finished with 3932 points and attended 354 events.



It was an extremely memorable year. Dale & I had the most fun ever running around the country. Good to see old friends and compete on courses we hadn't been on for a while. I ran with some of the most competitive women in the nation. I can't thank them enough for their friendship, encouragement, and support. We got to be extremely close and gave each other a lot of hugs. Cried with some, laughed with others. You know I love you all.

Thanks to all for throwing the great party at the hotel for the finale of the year. It was awesome to see all of the competitors sitting around laughing, reminiscing, and enjoying each others stories. The top fifteen even got to sit on Santa's lap. That had to be a first.

A very special thanks to those who helped us along the way and to my husband, Dale. I would have never accomplished the task without him.

Looking forward to convention in Savannah & don't have any plans of retiring from what I enjoy most.