

Lake Superior Corvette Club

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Vette Waves

Fall 2006

Presidents Letter—Bill Henry

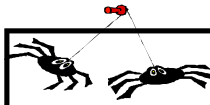
Our road rally on October 14th was the last planned driving event for the year and was an exceptionally fun-filled afternoon and evening, planned by Nancy, Linda and Yvonne. This was another great event planned by a committed group of Vette owners and reflects the commitment of the board to provide one of the best calendars of events of any Corvette club. Our last social event for the year will be the Christmas party on December 9th (details out shortly). We will have a very short business meeting to elect new officers and enjoy the festivities.

It has been a year of accomplishment as the website came on line, two additional car show sponsors were added, a wide variety of new monthly events were scheduled, some great membership profiles were published in the newsletter, Sunday Sundaes were expanded to include all classic car owners in the area (well received), the largest club charitable donation to date was given to the animal shelter, a highly successful classic car show was sponsored, and our financial health is good.

We also saw some of our members start to put their cars to competitive use at driving schools and autocross events. If you want to experience what your car is really capable of doing, attend one of the autocross or high speed events next year (see Steve, Bill, Linda, Gary, or Joe for details).

Drive safe,

Bill



LSCC Web Site



Have you checked out the web page lately? This year we went from zero to 100 and it really looks great.

Our webmaster Gary Jerry continues to do a superb job at keeping the site up to date with all the latest photos from club activities as well as general club information. Please keep in mind that you are always welcome to submit your photos. Perhaps some of you have some great 'before and afters' of a rebuild you did or even a shot of a clever vanity plate that you spotted on a road trip. Photos can be submitted to Gary at:

webmaster@lakesuperiorcorvetteclub.org

As always, we are very interested in your feedback and learning what we can do to make the club and the website better. Please feel free to offer your suggestions or ideas to us at any time.



Member contributed article

Yes, that's right, out of the blue, a corvette club member sent me the following article. What a great surprise and what a great article. It's filled with interesting tidbits that I'm sure you will all enjoy. Thanks George!

I caught the corvette bug in 1963 at the age of 13, as a stingray zoomed by me on Front Street as I walked to school. Ever since that day, I had to have a corvette! There were a few times in the 70's and 80's I came close, but other money situations came first. I finally got my chance in 1995 when I purchased a 1971 LT-1 coupe. It was an old road warrior, well seasoned, with all the right numbers and a lot of fun to drive. I recently sold it to collector in PA. and will be looking for a C-5 when the right one comes along.

When I first thought of submitting a piece for the news letter I was going to throw a bunch of names and dates at you. But there's only one name (Harley Earl) who created the corvette and one date (June 30, 1953), the first day of production, you should know.

Over the years I've read countless articles, magazines and books to learn all that I could about the history and people associated with the Corvette. Tip: A book that is very helpful to every corvette owner is CORVETTE BLACK BOOK by author Mike Antonick. It has every year of production, prices, VIN numbers, colors, options, history dates, glossary of terms and instructions on how to use the book.

Other sources of information are joining the NCRS (National Corvette Restorers Society). This club has a bi-monthly news letter, The NCRS Driveline which offers classified sections for buying parts, cars, books and services for your corvette. You also receive the Corvette Restorer magazine filled with human interest stories and how to projects you can do at home.

Finally, the best way to enjoy the corvette hobby is to get more involved in your Lake Superior Corvette Club. Become an officer, go to events like color tours, dinner runs, volunteer for car shows, and my favorite Sunday Sundaes. Believe me you will have a lot of fun meeting people that share the same interests as you.

I hope you all renew your membership and ask others to join, but most of all (when weather is permitting) keep driving your all American classic!!!!!!.

In future Newsletter issues I will be submitting information on a specific corvette year, so stay tuned.

Regards: George Ellis

Why I Had To Have a Vette...

As far back as I can remember, I've always been intrigued with cars, engines, anything with power. Starting out in grade school by taking my Dad's lawn mower apart and even getting it to run afterward. My first 'car' was a 1931 Model A that I used in traveling the woods roads in Iron River. This I purchased for a whopping \$15 while a freshman in high school. I had several other cars before I purchased my '56 Chevy as a junior. I had this car going into college, much to my Dad's dismay, and that's when the need for horsepower came into play. While at home on weekends, a neighbor down the road would fly past the house in a 1964 Corvette small block coupe. That was my first recollection of Corvettes and I knew then that someday I wanted to own one of them. But college has a way of setting priorities for you, both financially and responsibility wise. That's where things started to change, and for the good I might add. I met Sue while a junior at Western and we were married shortly after. Lisa was born in September and I graduated in December. Cars were still in my memory, only not as clear anymore. During my senior year I worked at a Sunoco gas station and the owner raced Pontiacs. For those of that era, Arnie Beswick would stop and both of them would wind up racing the streets of Kalamazoo. After a number of years, in 1993, I began thinking of a project to do with my son Jeff that would give him some automotive experience – a Corvette! Sue didn't stand a chance on this one. I purchased the '74 coupe in Madison and began to look at the rebuild. The only problem we had was that Jeff transferred from Northern to Michigan Tech – now my help was gone. But I kept forging ahead, with the men in brown - UPS - getting to know 23 Longyear Drive quite well.

It took years to completely rebuild and paint the '74. Before the car was even complete, I joined the Corvette Club. I took a lot of friendly joking, but that was the beginning of some very good friendships! Some of you may remember some of those days. Anyhow, I was hooked on Corvettes and was finally realizing part of my dream. Then, just after finally finishing the '74, a friend in Florida, who was the original owner of a 1966 small block convertible, called and asked if we were interested in buying his car. If so, we had first dibs. A few years before at a car show in St. Ignace, a blue '66 convertible had caught Sue's eye (lucky for me!) so the decision was an easy one for us. Sue and I drove down to Florida and trailered the car back home. A lot of work was required to get the car going but its finally taking shape.

Now for the rest of the story, my goal with the '74 was to rebuild it, enjoy it, take some trips in the car to prove it's durability and then upgrade to a C5. After the car show in 2005, I sold the '74 and within a couple of months I located what I thought was the best car for the money: a 26,000-mile '99 coupe. So that's how we arrived at where we are today – hard to imagine we had the opportunity to purchase some of the finest sports cars in America and drive with the finest group of people in the country.

A special thanks to **Jim Johnson** for providing this installment in the 'Why I Had to Have a 'Vette' series. I know this was quite an endeavor for Jim and he even confessed that it took a 'bit of beer' before he could put pen to paper but he did a great job.

LSCC ROAD RALLY 2006

Nine teams left the Marquette Medical Center parking lot precisely at 3:00pm to take part in this year's road rally. The "Queens of Scavenge" rally committee did a superb job of planning the event as all teams were successful in completing the course without getting lost, missing a clue or not being able to find the location of the party. Yvonne Andersen, Linda Dionne and Nancy Henderson who later became known as "The Cowgirls of the Clueless" promised this year was going to be a "remedial rally" and their many hours of planning provided a fun day for everyone. Club President Bill Henry and wife Ragene came prepared to unseat last year's Rally King and Queen Steve and Carol Luoma and finished with a sizeable lead over the rest of the teams. King Bill and Queen Ragene were humble in accepting their crowns however the King was overheard saying "Rally King Henry the First and my beloved Queen Ragene will try to be slightly more benevolent towards the commoners than the tyrant in exile. But, we all have to be careful, because you never know when they might return with a vengeance toward the peasants (and current King)". Last year's King and Queen arrived at the start only to be booed by the rest of the teams. Upon learning of their near last place finish this year, the now ex-King and Queen were heard to say "Even though his Majesty and his beloved Queen were temporarily overthrown, to the absolute glee of their subjects we might add, a great time was had by all. So before we begin to plot our return to unseat that dastardly usurper, William the inferior, we thank everyone for a great year. Jim and Sue Johnson finished second while Ann Beauchaine and Gary Dionne finished third. Jean and Larry Lawless took home the Red Lantern trophy as well as the People's Choice Award for being caught on film as the most talented. So after ten rally stops, three puzzles, plenty of laughs and friendly competition and great food at the Landmark, it was truly a successful event. We hope you will plan not to miss next year. It was a terrific day!

Submitted affectionately by your "Puzzle Divas" Yvonne, Linda and Nancy

Okay, I admit it. I may have seriously crossed the line by including a joke/story about a Nova in a Corvette newsletter but this one was so funny that I had to include it. I found it on a web site called "funny car stories". Hope you enjoy it too.

My first love / car was a 1969 Nova SS Hatchback with a 327 4 speed, it was silver with black interior and I was in LOVE with this car! I bought it in 1982 so there was some things wrong with it that I was fixing as I went along, one of which I learned the HARD way!! Being a senior that year in high school with this cool car, it landed me a date with the hottest girl in school! The only thing was I also had a bit of a wild streak in me that her dad found out about and strictly forbid her to see me. But that didn't stop me. The plan was to park my car up the road and sneak down to her house, get her out the bedroom window and take off for a little cruise! Well her house was at the bottom of this road so when I parked my car on the hill I hit the parking brake and started down the gravel road to pick her up. Well anyone from the Midwest or east knows that parking brakes can become rusty and freeze up, what I didn't know was that the owner before me unhooked the parking brakes all together. A fact I didn't realize until I was in back of her house helping her out of the window when I heard tires rolling down the gravel road followed by a very loud CRASH!!!! Seems my Nova must have popped out of gear and went rolling down the hill and right through the front door of the house into their kitchen!!!!

The only good thing about it was her Dad was a builder and he made me help him rebuild the damage I had caused. We actually became good friends over the summer and I ended up dating his daughter for two years before she went off to college in a different state.

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