

Lake Superior Corvette Club

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Vette Waves

January 2007

Presidents Letter — Gary Dionne

Hello members:

We've had a couple of very good years under our past president and now Vice President, Bill Henry. I hope to do as well in my new position. Most of you know me from the car show and other activities in our club. I've been an officer or chairperson since the club was started a number of years ago. Working with the board and members we hope to continue to grow and enjoy the use of the American sports car.

We have some new ideas and a couple of new practices to report to you in this newsletter. We have changed meeting practices. We will be meeting at Timber Creek Restaurant on every second Wednesday of the month. This should be very exciting. I hope all members will attend meetings, share their ideas and enjoy the activities of our club [please attend]. With a new board and member input, this should be a lot of fun. We need more member participation.

Because the Christmas party was such a huge success, I'm happy to announce the Board has approved it again for 2007. So mark your calendars for December 8th, 2007. Our progressive dinner will have a couple of new twists this year. I'm very excited about the upcoming year. I hope to see you at a function soon.

Gary R. Dionne, President

2007 Club Officers

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Club member George Ellis is turning into a regular contributor and the newsletter is all the better because of it. Thanks George!

“The Specifics” C1s

I would love to cover every year, but since this is a quarterly news letter, here are a few that I have picked out.

In the beginning, 1953, only 300 cars were built. So they are the rarest. All were painted Polo white with red vinyl interiors. All had 150 horse power 235 cubic inch 6 cylinder Blue Flame engines, 2 speed powerglide automatics, wide whitewall tires and black soft tops. They were built mostly by hand at a Chevrolet customer delivery garage in Flint, Michigan before moving to a St. Louis, Missouri's assembly plant in 1954 where they built corvettes until August 1, 1981.

By 1957 the Corvette had a new body make over, 4 speed manual transmission, and a V8 engine. Engineering legend Zora Arkus-Duntov, because of racing competition from other car companies, designed a fuel-injection unit and a low profile cam for the 283 cubic inch small block V8. This engine would produce 283 horse power and speeds of 130 miles per hour.

(A Collector's note)

Only fifty-one 1957 Corvettes came with the following; a RPO 684 racing suspension which included special wheels, front and rear springs, shocks, heavier front stabilizer bar, finned break drums, positraction, manual transmission with 270 horse power (2 four barrel carb) or the 283 horse power fuel-injected engine.

I picked the 1962 model because it was the last of the so called solid axle Corvettes. The new 327 cubic inch V8 replaced the 283, and when mated with fuel-injection, could 'push out' 360 horse power. This body style had four tail-lights (a tradition that is still running) and was the first year for rocker panels and thin white wall tires. It was also the last year for a real trunk, exposed head lights and side cove trim that began in 1956.

In the next Newsletter, everybody's favorite - C2 Sting Rays, so hang on!!!!

Regards: George Ellis

Why I Had To Have a Vette..... by Gary

I was in the US Air Force during the 60's, 70's, and 80's. The Vietnam War was going on and the Air Force was trying to keep their aircraft crew chiefs by offering a sizeable re-enlistment bonus which was just enough to get me to sign on the dotted line and spend a few more years with Uncle Sam. Young airmen don't often think about saving those bonuses and I was no different. I first bought an eighty acre farm in Minnesota and spent the rest on cars and partying. I rented the farm to some people that had Clydesdale horses who pretty much tore the barn down so that was the end of my property ownership and I sold the farm. But now I had cash in hand to buy another car or maybe party some more.

I was stationed at K.I. Sawyer AFB and happened to be sitting on my favorite bar stool at the Crossroads Bar, buying drinks for everyone with my farm now sold and extra money in my pocket which meant it was time to celebrate. My auto body man, Al Wirkula was also at the bar and told me to go over to the window to see what he had just bought. This is where my love affair with Corvettes was born! I looked out the window and there was the most beautiful corvette that I had ever seen. She was a 1968, 427ci, 435hp piece of power. She was blue and had a black hard top and a white convertible top plus 3 deuces and a big attitude. She thought she could outrun everything, including the police (I know because they later gave me a lot of tickets). I was ogling her when Al threw me the keys and said let's go for a ride. Little did I know he was trying to sell her and was out looking for a young, foolish, rich, airman to fall in love with her. We got in the vette and headed for the base. We were about at the fairgrounds when Al said go ahead open her up and see what she will do. We were going about 55mph at the time. I floored it and the hood started to reach for the sky, she started to roar as the rest of the carburetors opened up, and we almost went sideways. I was hooked and in love. We got back to the crossroads, had a few more drinks and I asked Al if she was for sale? He told me "everything is for sale if the price was right". I asked him what the right price was and he looked at me like I was crazy but he knew he had me hooked. He told me a price and I reached into my pocket and started counting out twenties. I paid him cash on the spot and I drove my new love home for the first time that night.

I enjoyed my vette for a few years and replaced her clutch and engine because I couldn't keep my foot out of the carburetors. We won a few races and I was in heaven. About this time the Air Force decided it was time to send me to Iceland. I had just been married and had just bought a whole house full of furniture, so the Air Force picked it up right from the store and shipped it to Iceland. It was time to find a temporary home for my vette for three years. My father had an old garage with a wooden floor that had been soaked with oil and gas for years. I decided the price was right (free) so I parked her, covered her up, and said goodbye.

While in Iceland my first son was born. I eventually made it back to the states and was stationed in South Dakota. I went home to Minnesota on leave to drive the corvette to S.D. Guess what? She wouldn't start (surprise, surprise). I tinkered for a couple of days and still couldn't get her fired up, so I rented a U-Haul trailer and she got a free ride to S.D. I took her into the local garage and they said her computer had gone bad. I replaced it at a great big price. Three weeks after I took my love out of the garage my father fired up the forge he had bought and burnt the garage to the ground. Thank the Lord he waited until I was able to get my vette out.

My family now had grown and like most people, finances change, priorities are shifted and my old love had to go. I sold her for as much as I paid for her and cried as she left the bank parking lot. I proceeded to raise my family and dream of my lost love. Years passed and I was now divorced, my kids were grown and was remarried to Pat. I started to flirt with every vette I saw that was for sale. One day while at the lower harbor at the LSCC car show I noticed a white '75 corvette with a new paint job flirting back at me. My heart skipped a beat as I noticed she had a for sale sign in her window. It was love at first sight. She looked a little tired, but she was sound. Needless to say she is now living in my garage. I bought her a new dress (blue paint job) and a new set of shoes (tires). I am also in the process of turning her cockpit from blue to silver. Ironically, the work that I've had done on her is being done by Al Wirkula's two sons so I guess I've come full circle since that day I shared a bar stool at the Crossroads with Al.

This summer I started building my two true loves a new home. Pat gets a new house and my new vette gets a new garage. We are all happy and life is very, very good.


Thanks to our webmaster, Gary Jerry, for a great column. We all can't wait for the garage-warming, I mean housewarming party (don't worry Gary, the only thing burning will be tires in your driveway).

Dinner Runs/LSCC Events —2007 *Specific details of each event will be mailed to the membership*

Date	Event	Location
4-21-07	Dinner Run	ToBeDecided (details coming soon!)
5 - 19	Dinner Run	Up North Lodge
6 -16	Potluck Picnic	Presque Isle Pavilion
7 - 9	Bay Cliff Give the Kids a Ride	Bay Cliff Health Camp
7- 21	Mystery Game Dinner Run	It's part of the mystery
8 - 25	LSCC Car Show	Mattson Park
September	Color tour	TBD
October	Scavenger Hunt	TBD
December 8	Christmas Party	Landmark Inn

Special Events—2007

Date	Event and Location	Contact
5/18—9/16	Road America; Elkhart Lake WI SVRA Spring Vintage Weekend: May 18-20 June Sprints: June 21-24 Brian Redman Vintage Race: July 19-22 Ferrari Challenge: Aug 3-5 ALMS Generac 500: Aug 9-12 Fall Vintage Racing: Sept 14-16	Steve Luoma
June 2-3	Kruisin Klassics; Escanaba	Bill Henry
June 14—17	Bloomington Gold; St. Charles Illinois	Bill Henry
June 17	Iron River Fathers Day Show; Iron River	Jim Johnson
August 11	Buzz the Gut; Ishpeming	
August 24-25	Corvettes at Carlisle	Joe Pepin



Show & Shine Sunday Sundaes
7PM; June 3 - September 2
Meet at Presque Isle every Sunday evening, as you can, for ice cream, car talk and if it's really necessary, some exercise.

And last but not least...it's that time of year again for paying your annual dues to the club. The membership form can either be mailed to the Membership Director or given to any Board Member. This year we will only be sending out the form one time so please submit your dues promptly so that you will continue to receive the newsletter and receive details about all of the upcoming events. I received the following e-mail from one of our club members and it sums up perfectly what being in the club and participating is all about.....

I've been a part of the Lake Superior Corvette Club since it's inception. And, if you watch Speed TV or Car Crazy, you probably have an idea why I'm an involved member. Our Vette is not my 'daily driver', nor is it even parked on my side of the garage; but when spring arrives, I share the enthusiasm and anticipation for getting back on the road and enjoying 'car company'. My father died when I was 13 years old, but even before I was a teenager I can remember his passion for his vehicles; whether he was polishing, waxing, tinkering or pointing out the first Maserati I'd ever seen. Maybe the 'car thing' is genetic. Or maybe he's always been my "silent passenger" over the 100's of 1000's of miles since the days of growing up in California and traveling Route 66 back to Michigan. We share the road with lots of great 'car company', be it Northern Knights, the Antique buffs or custom Street Rods. But if you enjoy your Vette 1/2 as much as I know you do...join, rejoin and encourage your Vette friends to join in the fun. We've got a great year planned. Come share your story.

Lake Superior Corvette Club

2007 Dues: \$20.00

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Year/Model/Make: _____

Please send and make checks payable to :

**Lake Superior Corvette Club
136 Veda Drive
Marquette, Michigan 49855**

How To Identify Where A Driver Is From

- One hand on wheel, one hand on horn: Chicago
- One hand on wheel, one finger out window: New York
- One hand on wheel, one hand on newspaper, foot solidly on accelerator: Boston
- One hand on wheel, cradling cell phone, brick on accelerator: Detroit
With gun in lap: Flint
- Both hands on wheel, eyes shut, both feet on brake, quivering in terror: Ohio, but driving in California.
- Both hands in air, gesturing, both feet on accelerator, head turned to talk to someone in back seat: Italy
- One hand on latte, one knee on wheel, cradling cell phone, foot on brake, mind on game: Seattle
- One hand on wheel, one hand on hunting rifle, alternating between both feet being on the accelerator and both on the brake, throwing a McDonalds bag out the window: Texas city male
- One hand constantly refocusing the rearview mirror to show different angles of the BIG hair, one hand going between mousse, brush, and rattail to keep the helmet hair going, both feet on the accelerator, poodle steering the car, chrome .38 revolver with mother of pearl inlaid handle in the glove compartment: Texas female
- Four wheel drive pickup truck, shotgun mounted in rear window, beer cans on floor, squirrel tails attached to antenna, cousin/spouse in passenger seat: Arkansas
- Two hands gripping wheel, blue hair barely visible above window level, driving 35 on the interstate in the left lane with the left blinker on: Florida.

The smarter sex? You decide.....

A woman and a man are involved in a car accident; it's a bad one. Both of their cars are totally demolished but amazingly neither of them are hurt.

After they crawl out of their cars, the woman says, "So you're a man, that's interesting. I'm a woman. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

Flattered, the man replied, "Oh yes, I agree with you completely!"

"This must be a sign from God!" The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune."

Then she hands the bottle to the man, The man nods his head in agreement, opens it and drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman.

The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

The woman replies, "No. I think I'll just wait for the police..."