



Volume 3, Issue 3.

June 2019/July 2019

Corvette Club of Windsor

NEWSLETTER

President's Report

Hello fellow Corvette Club members.

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Corvette show. A special thank you to Rick Farrow for his generous donations. We were able to raise enough money to donate \$11,000 to the Paediatric Oncology Unit at the Windsor Regional Hospital . This presentation will be in September.

Our monthly dinner outing to Rivers Edge Tap and Table had a great turnout. Over 20 cars showed up for this event. Our next event will be lunch at the Car Barn in Wheatley August 18.

I would like welcome all the new members who have joined our club in the last few months. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Dan Reaume, President

Club major sponsors – reverse alphabetical order



www.drinkwolfhead.com



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bostonpizza.com



www.drblake.ca



www.allchinbrake.aaro.ca

New Members

Rick and Donna Farrow

Patricia and Patrick Lanoue

Ron Mucci

Sorry no pictures or story on any of these new members

Members Special

Congratulations to club member Doug Pitre

The Corvette Club of Windsor wants to congratulate you on your retirement!!!

We hope you thoroughly enjoy your time with no more alarm clocks and no stress!!!

All the best and enjoy your toy !



Club Events

Saturday, June 1, 2019

Corvette caravan from Matick Chevrolet to Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle

This year, as far as I know, only Steve and Alex Sagat joined in the fun. A rainbow of shiny Corvettes, including Steve's 2008 Pace Car, lined up at the main entrance of George Matick Chevrolet around 7:30 on Saturday morning. The event started with a delicious starter's breakfast at the Redford Township dealership and then a police-escorted caravan to Detroit's Belle Isle racetrack and a day of Grand Prix racing and activities on the island.



Saturday's Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle's 13 turn, 2.3 mile street course had a little bit of everything, including a thunderstorm in the afternoon where race chairman Bud Denker and his group had to evacuate thousands of fans from the bleachers for safety purposes. Due to the delay, the race was shortened from a 70-lap event to a timed 75-minute race where drivers competed on rain tires at the start of the race and started in single file to prevent additional problems at the first two turns.

This is Steve Sagat driving the race course two years ago.



Sunday, May 26, 2019

Wasaga Beach Corvette Club Spring Fling 2019

Canadian Council of Corvette Club Eastern Region CONCOURS NATIONAL

Both Ron Hillier and Richard Neal attended this show where there were 148 cars in the Canadian Tire Parking lot in Wasaga Beach. They assisted in the CCCC judging also.

Saturday, June 1, 2019

Steve Plunkett's Fleetwood Country Cruise In, London, Ontario

Nothing to report.

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Shakers reunion at The Serbian Centre – an invite only event

Thanks Barry for the Corvette pictures.



Thursday, June 6 to Sunday, June 9, 2019

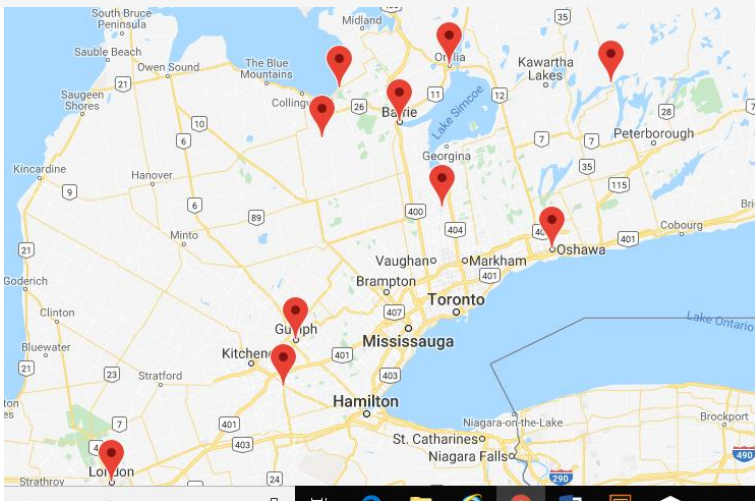
2019 Ontario Hot Rod Tour

Report and pictures by Bob Bobbis



Ontario hot Rod tour June 6th - 9th. I started in London on Thursday morning and made our way through Stratford, Cambridge, Guelph and the Orangeville area across to Newmarket. There were 80 of us travelling with 2 nights hotel in Newmarket. Friday took us north to the Wasaga Beach area and many other small towns on our way through Barrie to Newmarket again. On Saturday we headed east of Lake Simcoe. Sunday we headed west again where we then headed home. Fun time visiting restoring garages, breweries and a nice drive, tour and cool stuff to see.

I did a lot of miles so I took my Prowler, since I only have 13,000 miles on my 77 Vette. Incredible !!!



Saturday, June 8, 2019

**Back to the Beach, Corvette Weekend
Old Orchard Beach, Maine**

This is Old Orchard Beach, Maine

About 300 Vettes...

Great show...

Enzo Carboni



Ton of fun.

Today fun show and parade.

Sunday, June 9, 2019 CANCELLED

Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village
Village - Automotive Flea Market and Festival of
Cars Show

CANCELLED due to excessive rainfall.

Rescheduled to Sunday, July 21.



Sunday, June 9, 2019

Corvette Club of Windsor – Our own special Waterfront
Corvette Show – Dieppe Park.



175 cars, 18 Corvette Clubs, cars from Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, plus mostly decent weather, made for a great Waterfront Car Show. I'll let the pictures tell their own story. Thanks to Brenda Myers, Barry Renaud, Mike Giroux and Mick Yarina (from Pittsburgh) for the pictures.

Alrighty then.... another great show is in the books! Great turn out of people and cars, spectators too! Even the sprinkles we had couldn't dampen the spirit of so many Vette enthusiasts! So busy walking around, didn't take a lot of pic's, *Mike Giroux* 😊



Audrey



Bryan Hansen's grandsons, Alex (on left) and Drew



Enzo





Steel Town Corvette Club from Pittsburgh



Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Bowman Chevrolet customer Appreciation Day to be held at Waterford Hills, Michigan on Tuesday, June 11, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Performance vehicles can spend the day driving on Waterford Hills race track for \$100.00 or Classic car owners can display their vehicles in the center paddock for free



Nothing to report

Thursday June 13, 2019

Wolfhead Distillery dinner



Friday, June 14, 2019

Once again we are planning to enrich the lives of the residents at the Sun Parlor Home in Leamington, Ontario. **Unfortunately the show was rained out.**



Saturday, June 15, 2019

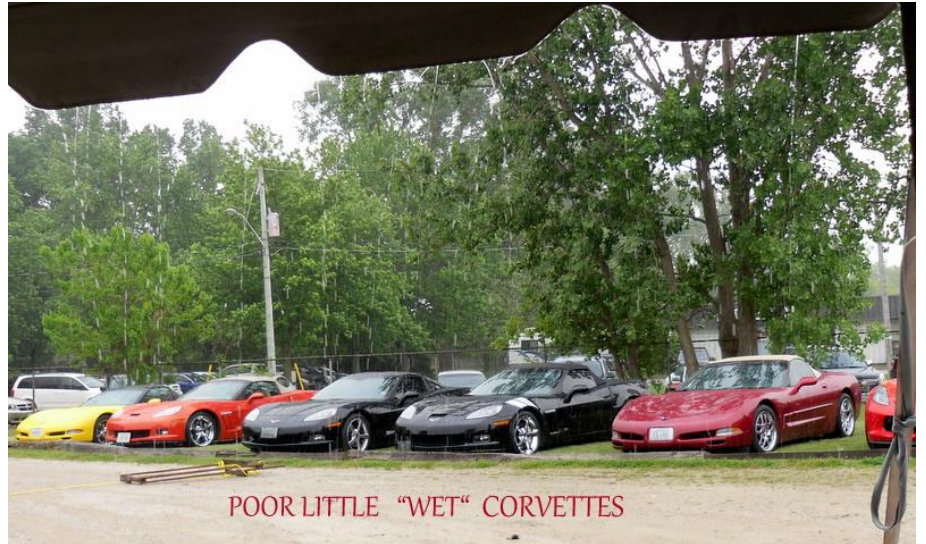
GMC Corvette Set presents CorvetteFest at Canterbury Village, Lake Orion, Michigan

Nobody from our club went due to poor weather.



Saturday, June 15, 2019

27th Annual Ronstock & Free Art Giveaway at
Suchiu Art & Framing Gallery, Essex, ON



POOR LITTLE "WET" CORVETTES



Saturday, June 15, 2019

Dimilo Auto Body Cars and Coffee Auto show

Gino and some friends are putting on an auto show Saturday June 15, 2019 at DiMilo's Body Shop, 126 Oak St. W., Leamington, Ontario.

Nothing to report.



Sunday, June 16, 2019 CANCELLED due to rain

The Villages at St Clair, located at 1800 Talbot Street. Supports 256 seniors.

Saturday, June 20, 2019

June Club Meeting.

The rain finally stopped just before the start of this month's meeting. There were no Corvettes in the Parking lot of Central Park Athletics. The meeting started at 6:40 pm. 27 members were in attendance. Gary gave his Treasurer's report. Bryan talked about the donation to the Oncology Unit and it was recommended that we donate \$11,000 this year. Bryan is going to bring Giselle from the hospital to our next meeting. Thanks were extended to Gary, Bryan and Marilyn for all their efforts in the show. Thanks were sent to Rick Farrow for the loan of his two vans, but Lynda said a trailer would have suited us better. Marilyn says she has friends who have horse trailers which may be a better option. Les gave the minutes from last month's meeting. Dan reminded us that Bryan has been trying to opt out of the responsibility for running the car show for a while. We need someone to volunteer to take over or at least assist. Do we have any volunteers? We still need a location for the Club Summer BBQ. Peter suggested maybe we could use a city park. Bob Small to look into Seacliff Park. Gary mentioned that one of the Michigan show attendees was disappointed that he did not win a trophy. Other participants did not like not having first, second and third place. There was some discussion as to whether or not to have trophies. Lynda told us about next dinner outing at River's Edge Tap & Table on July 11. Reminder about Farrow Customs show on July 6 with a rain date of July 7. Go in the back way not off Hun Church. Ron Hillier said cars going to Legend's Corvettes at the Summit on July 13 to meet at Bridge Duty Free at 6:30 am to caravan up. Peter told club about Chevrolet live streaming the debut of the C8 Mid Engine Corvette on July 18, which is our next meeting night. Lynda asked if Central Park Athletics can live stream on the meeting room tv. Gary to send link for a video, what one I don't know, to Peter for BLAST. Ron Packer asked if anyone knows who owned an orange 2012 GS.

Apparently someone bought the car near London and it still had the Corvette Club of Windsor decal on the windshield. There were three participants, one from Tilbury and two from Michigan, who must have left early and did not pick up their trophies. They will be contacted and maybe Peter can take them with him to the Legends show if these participants will be there. Positive comments were made on this year's T shirt and Mike Giroux was thanked for the orange ZR1 picture. Ron and Richard told us they had attended the Wasaga Beach Corvette Club Spring Fling on May 26, where they both helped with the CCCC judging.

Friday, June 21, 2019 – Cruise night and Parade

Chatham RetroFest Classic Car road Cruise and RM Sotheby's 40th Anniversary Parade with Kid Rock as Parade Marshall



Photo by Matt Weverink others by Bob Bobbis.

A weekend that attracted thousands of local residents and out-of-towners to downtown Chatham has raised \$250,000 for three local charities.

The RetroFest / RM Sotheby's 40th Anniversary celebrations kicked off on Friday, June 21 and carried over to Saturday, June 22. Organizers said the money that was raised will go to the Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent, Chatham-Kent Hospice Foundation, and the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Foundation.



A parade and classic car cruise through Chatham kicked off the festivities Friday afternoon.

Friday night's concert at Tecumseh Park featured Walkin'47 and Sam Roberts Band. Kid Rock — who had surprised local residents with an appearance during the parade — also stepped on stage during the Sam Roberts Band's last song. Organizers said over 4,000 people were at the park, adding the proceeds raised will go to support the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Foundation.



Bob Bobbis says those mechanical elephants were amazing.

“I couldn’t be more pleased with our 40th Anniversary celebration,” said Rob Myers, founder, chairman and CEO of RM Sotheby’s. “We had such a great turnout this weekend and we not only raised a few eyebrows, but we raised an impressive amount of money for three charities that are very close to my heart. I’m beyond thankful to all the organizations and volunteers that got involved to make this truly the best collector car weekend that Canada has ever seen.”

More pictures thanks to Ron Packer only this time travelling right to left





Saturday June 22, 2019 – Chatham Retro-Fest Car Show, Downtown Chatham

Report and pictures by Ken Gray

Well I went to the show this morning and stayed well into the afternoon. It was really, really well attended. There must've been thousands of people I don't know two or 3000 I suspect anyway, so it was pretty busy and cars lined the streets both sides in a several block radius throughout the downtown. Really cool, literally all kinds of wild and muscle cars as well as of course vintage vehicles of all types makes and models. Several stand outs in my mind include 2 suicide door Lincolns from '63, if I'm not mistaken, Corvettes silver '69 427 Stingray and a nice red '71 stuck in my mind. Yesterday I understand that Kid Rock was in the cruise and apparently Jay Leno also. Today I met many colourful people with many a variety of cool and interesting vehicles. Here's a few pics.



Munster Mobile built by 14-17 yr old kids



Chicken mobile



Blue Nash metropolitan



Green Goggomobil



Silver '69



Red '71



Pink 51 Cadi owner by a Chatham optometrist



White Cadillac by Kid Rock



Ken's car below



.....and then here's some more.....you figure out what's what !!



Now here are some more pictures by Ron Packer.



...and following are just the vintage Corvettes. What a fabulous weekend !!



Saturday, July 6, 2019

7th Annual Farrow Make a Wish Custom Classic Car show, 2001 Huron Church Road, Windsor, Ontario

What a great show with no rain date needed. I have intentionally not included any Corvettes in Barry's pictures. Trust you enjoy.

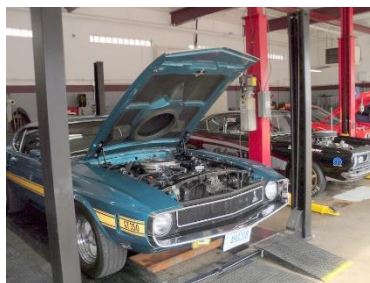


.....everything from Model T...to engine blow (I think a Hyundai – but who cares) ...to Super Exotics.

Early.....



....and muscle cars



...now the BIG dollars \$\$\$\$



The end !

Saturday, July 6, 2019

BAYFIELD VETTEFEST Clan Gregor Square, Bayfield, ON

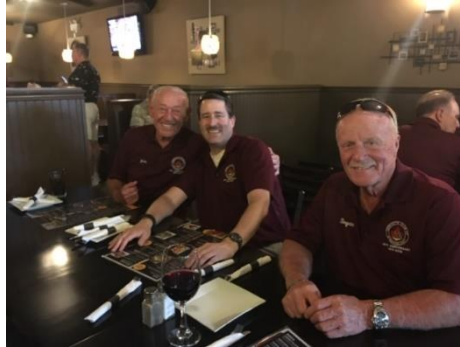
Nothing to report.



Thursday, July 11, 2019

River's Edge Tap and Table, located at 494 Riverdale Ave, Windsor





Thanks Lynda for the pictures

Friday, July 12, 2019

Sunsplash this year had a NEW Start time of 3pm, but that did not deter lots of cars arriving much earlier. Parking in Belle River, from Belle River Road to Eleventh Street, was nearly full at 2:30 !!! I heard that they had about 700 cars there. Wonderful.





Saturday, July 13, 2019

15th Annual Corvettes at the Summit presented by
Corvette Legends Club at Canton's Summit Heritage
Park.

CORVETTE 
Legends
CLUB



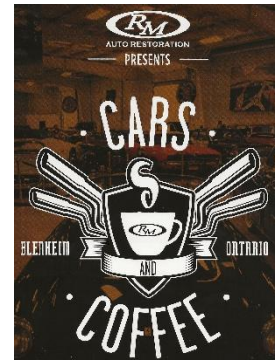
Who said this was a car show?



Saturday, July 13, 2019

Cars and Coffee, RM Restorations 8:00 am to 11:00 am.
FREE at RM, one Classic Car Drive, Blenheim, Ontario

Nothing to report



Sunday, July 14, 2019

July 14 – Sunday – Ciociaro Club Car show 3745 North Talbot Rd.,
Oldcastle open 9am – info email: frankvitella123@hotmail.com or call
519-796-0382







Thursday, July 18, 2019

July club meeting at Central Park Athletics.

About 35 people attended, and Bryan Hansen started the meeting by introducing Gisele Seguin to the group as our guest speaker. Gisele is the Director of the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, and she presented information about the Pediatric Oncology Unit at the Metropolitan Campus.

She has worked for 17 years at the hospital, in Public Relations, Foundation and Volunteers. She has a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Business Administration, both from the University of Windsor, so she is well qualified in this field of work. Before the hospital, Gisele was a Social Worker with the Children's Aid Society. She is a local LaSalle girl with French Canadian ancestry.

Gisele spoke to the members about the Pediatric Oncology Unit and explained where our car show donation goes. Fund raising as a whole provides two and a half million dollars which goes mostly to equipment. If the donations are specifically assigned to a fund, that is where all of that donation goes.

The Pediatric Oncology Unit had 490 visits last year. There are between 30 and 40 kids in Essex County receiving treatment in this unit. Ages of pediatric patients range from babies up to 18 year olds. The Met Campus is a satellite of the London Campus. All of the cancer diagnosis on kids is done in London.

Gisele showed us pictures of some of the special kinds of apparatus used in this unit specifically for children. There was a chemo chair, a modified IV pole with Spiderman or Mickey Mouse as part of the theme. There was a child sized model of a MRI tunnel with a doll patient lying on it to make this experience less traumatic for the kids. There was also an examination table which had a smiling lion and four lion legs and feet to support it. There are 35 beds in this department and two outpatient clinics. It costs \$138K to run the clinic.



In conclusion Gisele thanked us for the donation and for being able to tell us where the donation goes. Bryan cut in and told her we would be donating a larger amount in the fall, along with a group of cars on the front lawn. Gisele replied that it is a thrill for the kids to see and sit in the Corvettes.

Dan Reaume started the meeting at 6:30 by introducing new club member Ron Mucci with his 2019 Grand Sport. Ironically Ron told us about his boy having cancer at the age of 6. He went through chemo for 5 years and was told his future prognosis was not good. How many trips he and his son had to make to London. Now his son is 6' 3" and weighs (I think) 260 pounds.

Les read the minutes and Gary gave his Treasurer's Report. It was agreed that the Club donate \$500 to Ron Farrow's Car Show charity Make a Wish Foundation. Bob Small adjusted his membership count to 66 + 1 because of Ron Mucci. Bryan told us he thought we could get a recognition award from Biz-X Awards. Les reminded us about the London show August 11. He told us how complimentary the London Club was of our Waterfront show in their newsletter and reminded everyone that they had 14 cars at our show. It is only right that we reciprocate and take as many Windsor cars to London as we can. Ed Jones Route 66 continues to grow. He now has 20 cars with 3 groups and can take 3 more. Reminder about summer BBQ at Vollmer Centre on September 15. They have a pavilion, toilets, splash pad and Porchetta (pig roast) for dinner. Please let Ed know if you are going so he knows how much food to order. Reminder for those going to Amherstburg show to be at meeting spot in Amherstburg at 7:00 am. Who is going to America's Corvette show on August 10. Ron Packer distributed RM Restoration booklets to members.

Sunday, July 21, 2019

Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village
Automotive Flea Market & Festival of Cars Show.

Nothing to report



Sunday, July 21, 2019

Memorial Car Show & Cruise, Riverside Sportsmen's Club, 10835
Riverside Drive East, Windsor, ON

JDRF improves lives, cuing Type 1 diabetes.

Nothing to report



Saturday, July 20, 2019

Here's to a guy who drives his Corvette plus a short story.

Hey Peter Jonathan here. It was great seeing you at the Amherstburg car show. I went to cedar point this past weekend. While on route home we stopped at the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant car show. They do an open house once a year and we were lucky enough to see the show and take a tour of the offices. Near Sandusky Ohio. I also included some pictures of the car at cedar point.

Thanks Jonathan Lo Medico.



Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 26 - 28, 2019

2019 Concourse d'Elegance of America – The Inn at St. John's – Plymouth, MI
Ed Jones Dave Hitchcock went Saturday, July 27. One of the features and seminars was the Corvette C8 reveal at the Inn at St Johns, Plymouth, Michigan



**Seminar with design staff
August 27 – torch red and
matrix grey – Thx for pics Ed!**



Saturday, July 27, 2019

“Corvette Generations” Car Show 6th annual show at Culver's of Lake Orion, Michigan. Sponsored by North Oaks Corvette Club.

Nothing to report



Sunday, July 28, 2019

Amherstburg Gone Car Crazy 14th Annual Car Show – Main street and Toddy Jones Park As usual a great turnout of people and exceptional cars.



Sunday, July 28, 2019

Steel Town Corvette Club 39th Annual All Chevy Show, Pittsburg, PA sponsored by Colussy Chevrolet, oldest family owned dealer in the United States.

Nothing to report.

Future Club Events

Friday, August 2, 2019

Essex Dream Cruise, 3 – 8 pm.



Saturday, August 3, 2019

Competition Show and Shine at Fountain Walk, 44175 Twelve Mile Road, Novi, Michigan



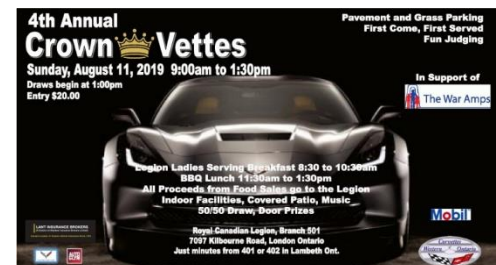
Saturday, August 10, 2019

Corvettes America, 19th anniversary, hosts Michigan's largest all Corvette show at Everest Academy, 5935 Clarkston Road, Clarkston Michigan. Located off I-75 at Sashabaw Road exit 89.



Sunday, August 11, 2019

Corvettes of Western Ontario present their 4th Annual Crown Vettes car show at Legion 501, London, Ontario on Sunday, August 11, 2019. Note this is a Non-Judging show.



Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Moose and Muscle Dream Cruise Tune Up

Loyal Order Moose Lodge, 777 Tecumseh Rd West, Windsor



Friday, August 16, 2019

Ouellette Car Cruise

Stage at Festival Plaza, 370 Riverside Dr E, Windsor on the waterfront – 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm



Saturday, August 17, 2019

Back to the Bricks and Gary Drago's Corvette Reunion, Flint, MI



Saturday, August 17, 2019

Dream Cruise – Woodward Avenue - 8 mile Road to Pontiac, Michigan



Sunday, August 18, 2019

Sunday lunch at the Car Barn, 23 Talbot Rd E

Wheatley, Ontario, Sunday August 18th at 12:00pm



Sunday, August 25, 2019

Tecumseh Corn Festival, Cream of the Crop, Invitational Car Show, Lacasse Park, Tecumseh, ON. Note this is both an Invitational (50 vehicles - like last year) AND an open Car Show (limited space but open to those who register).



Monday, September 2, 2019

Labour Day Car Show – Fogolar Furlan Club presented by Racewindsor, JH Restorations, and Windsor District Labour Council

Saturday, September 7, 2019

Wheels on Wyandotte St. Wyandotte Street East between Thompson and Jefferson will be closed for the show from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00

September 15, 2019

Reaume Chev Olds, 500 Front Road, LaSalle 12th Annual Fall Car Cruise – opens 9 am - cruise at 10:30 am.

Then hop over to

Car Club summer BBQ at Vollmer Centre, 2121 Laurier Pkwy, LaSalle 3:00 pm on September 15. They have a pavilion, toilets, splashpad and Porchetta - pig roast for dinner.

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Ruthven Apple Fest Car Show – S&S Storage beside Colasanti's, 1550 Road 3 E in Ruthven 10 am – 2 pm

Corvette Club Showcase

Stories about other Corvette clubs in our area

Steel Town Corvette Club of Pittsburgh, PA

Steel Town Corvette Club

Don Yenke, an American race car driver best known for creating the Yenke high performance line of Chevrolets organized Steel Town Corvette Club (STCC) in 1972 along with Donna Mae Mims, also an American race car driver.



By way of background we are one of the largest Corvette clubs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with approximately 200 members. Our original heritage was focused on members who raced against other sports cars such as those that belonged to the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA).

STCC has always been about pursuing our love of automobiles and having fun with our Corvettes. We try to do this by planning many enjoyable activities that appeal to a broad range of interests. We offer social events, car shows and both local and out-of-state cruise events. Our social



events include

holiday parties, local winery tours, mystery cruises, club picnics, and dinner cruises. STCC sponsors the annual "All-Chevy" car show which attracts cars representing both vintage classic Chevrolets as well as the very latest models. In 2019, we will be sponsoring our 39th Annual All Chevy Show. We also participate in shows sponsored both by other local clubs as well as several out of state clubs, most

notably in both Annapolis and Ocean City, MD, trips to the Windsor Ontario Corvette car show and the Corvettes at Carlisle, PA show, reputedly the largest Corvette show on the East Coast.

STCC is a non-profit organization and we like to give back to our community by donating to several local charities. Among our current charities are the "Santa's Kids" which aids the under-privileged children and their families in our communities. In addition we are ongoing supporters of the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The Steel Town Corvette Club encourages the ownership of Corvettes and provides the opportunity for members to exchange information and knowledge on how to best maintain and enjoy our Corvettes. STCC maintains a strong relationship with our sponsor, Colussy Chevrolet in Bridgeville PA, whose unwavering support has greatly contributed to the growth and success of our organization.



get an opportunity to talk with one another and get caught up on each other's current activities.



During the period stretching from November 1 thru March 30 we have a monthly meeting of all members to bring them up to date on current STCC Board activities and decisions as well as providing a venue for members to get together for dinner and discussion and the occasional party. Commencing in March and running through October we have a full schedule of car cruises, outdoor parties and other activities that provide members with an opportunity to drive their "Vettes," - usually ending at a dinner location where we



Our members are mostly from the Pittsburgh area and nearby West Virginia. While it is not mandatory that members own a Corvette, STCC membership requires a strong interest in Corvettes.

STCC keeps all members informed of club activities through issuance of our monthly STCC Newsletter, the use of the Steel Town Facebook Page and our posts on our STCC web page.

All members are encouraged to provide their email address in order to receive timely notifications of club activities.

Steel Town Officers and Directors

As with any well-organized association, Steel Town Corvette Club has a full complement of Officers and Directors.

The Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at Colussy Chevrolet, 3073 Washington Pike Bridgeville PA 15017. All club members are welcome to attend!

General Responsibilities Applicable to all Board Members:

- Board members and Alternates are expected to attend and participate in regular meetings of the board, as well as any meetings of the committees on which they serve should one be formed and approved by the Board.
- All Board members should always have the good of the STCC in mind when acting on behalf of the organization. Avoidance of conflicts of interest must be strictly adhered to (Conflict of Interest refers to situations when the board member's personal financial interests or fiduciary duties owed to third parties, such as immediate family, may compromise, or have the appearance of compromising, the member's professional judgment or behavior in carrying out his or her obligations to the STCC).

- Promoting the club and club activities is paramount to the success of the organization.

The following positions comprise the full board:

- President
- Vice President



- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Events Chairperson
- Membership Chairperson
- Publics Relations Chairperson
- Newsletter Editor/Chairperson
- Points Chairperson
- Social Media Chairperson
- 1st Alternate
- 2nd Alternate
- Committee Leader – Charity Determinations



Cartoons & Sayings

Thanks Gary !



Palindrome of the day - racecar spelled backwards is still racecar !!!!

Corvette general news

**I wonder how Larry
broke it !**

Matick 2018 Service Technician
of the year, Alec Jackson, installs
new transmission for Larry
Courtney's US flag-wrapped
Matick Corvette

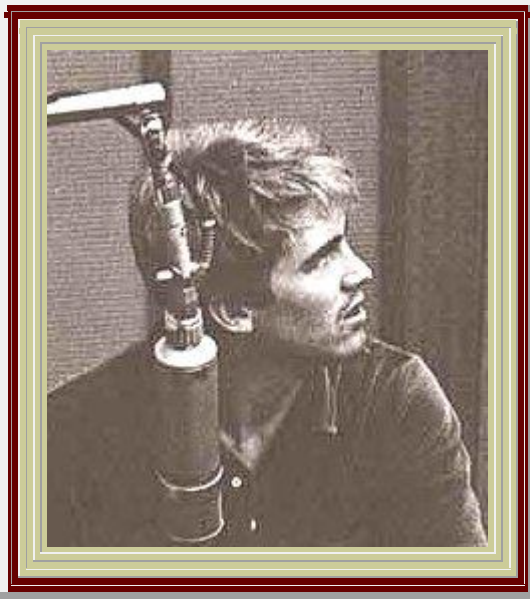


See what Zora can do with Photoshop ! Oh! How I bet he would have loved it...



Jan Berry Accident (site) (Los Angeles, California) interesting place. On April 12, 1966, 25-year-old musician Jan Berry turned onto Whittier **southbound** from Sunset in his Chevrolet Corvette Stingray and hit a parked truck at about 90 MPH.

Spectropop remembers



JAN BERRY (1941 - 2004)

Surf music legend: Dean's other half

Jan Berry, half of the 1960s surf duo Jan and Dean, has died at 62. The pair recorded hits including their #1 'Surf City' and Berry's personal favourite, 'Dead Man's Curve'. He died Friday at the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center after suffering a seizure at his home nearby, his wife, Gertrude Filip Berry, said yesterday. His health had been precarious since he suffered brain damage and partial paralysis in a 1966 automobile accident.

While in high school he formed the Barons with his friends Dean Torrence and Arnie Ginsburg. In 1958, while Torrence was serving in the Army Reserves, Jan & Arnie enjoyed a Top 10 hit with 'Jennie Lee', a track recorded in Jan's garage. On Dean's return, Arnie left for the Navy - Jan and Dean were born. They had many hits including 1959's 'Baby

Talk' and five in 1963 and 1964 alone; 'Surf City', 'Honolulu Lulu', 'Drag City', 'Dead Man's Curve' and 'Little Old Lady From Pasadena'. Steeped in the surf, sun and sand culture of Southern California youth of the late 1950s and early 1960s, Berry delighted in spinning lyrics about a hot-rod-racing grandma in 'The Little Old Lady (From Pasadena)' or driving a "woody" to 'Surf City' where he envisioned "two girls for every boy".

He joined Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys to co-write the lyrics for several Jan and Dean hits including 'Dead Man's Curve', 'Drag City', 'Surf City' and 'New Girl In School'. "Jan and Brian influenced each other so much they had one of the most important friendships in popular music, particularly in developing the West Coast Sound," said Mark Moore, who is writing a biography of Berry, his music and his overcoming physical handicap. He said Wilson learned about producing records from Mr. Berry, and Mr. Berry gained insight on harmony from Wilson. The Beach Boys and Jan and Dean even performed on each other's records, according to the New Rolling Stone Encyclopedia Of Rock & Roll", until their respective record companies objected.

Jan and Dean's meteoric career might have soared higher, but for the April 12, 1966, accident in which Berry's silver Corvette Sting Ray hit a parked truck at 90 mph in Beverly Hills after he came off Sunset Boulevard only a few blocks from the legendary "Dead Man's Curve" of their song. He was severely injured, and his three passengers were killed. Although the accident, which put him in a coma for 10 months, initially left him unable to talk and walk, through determination he regained the ability to walk and to speak slowly. Berry's right hand and arm remained paralyzed, reducing his instrumental repertoire from ukulele, guitar and most other instruments to one-handed piano. He had difficulty

remembering lyrics he had written and would go over them repeatedly backstage while listening to a Walkman.

But he was able to resume performing with Torrence in the late 1970s after a 1978 television movie, 'Dead Man's Curve', renewed interest in Jan and Dean. The duo split briefly in 1981 when Berry developed a cocaine habit; another handicap he overcame and talked openly about. In 1998, he recorded a solo CD, 'Second Wave'.

Known for his remarkable intelligence (reportedly, his IQ was 180), Jan Berry handled his musical career while earning a degree in zoology at UCLA. The accident halted his plans to become a medical doctor.

In addition to his wife of 13 years, he is survived by his parents, William and Clara Berry of Camarillo, California, three brothers and three sisters.

Myrna Oliver - The Los Angeles Times



DEAD MAN'S CURVE — On April 12, 1966—53 years ago—Jan Berry crashed his brand new Corvette Sting Ray into the back of a parked pickup truck on Whittier Drive in Beverly Hills. He had just turned 25 on April 3, and had enjoyed success in the music industry for the past eight years. He was also in his second year of medical school at the California College of Medicine, whose campus at that time was located on Griffin Avenue, northeast of downtown Los Angeles. From his first self-penned Top 10 record in 1958 to his final release in 1966, Jan had scored 26 chart entries during that brief period—two with Jan & Arnie and 24 with Jan & Dean. Sixteen of those were Top 40 hits, including seven Top 10, as charted by “Billboard” and “Cash Box.” Jan had signed a series of major contracts as an artist, songwriter,



arranger, and record producer for Nevins-Kirshner Associates in September 1961. Those contracts were renewed and revised by Screen Gems-Columbia Music in April 1963, a month before the release of “Surf City.” Jan’s signing with Screen Gems set the stage for his most famous body of work as a writer, arranger, and producer. Jan & Dean’s television series “On the Run” had been green-lighted to debut on the ABC network in the fall of 1966. The pilot was in the can, and the new medium would have provided the duo a major platform for releasing new music. Jan had launched his personal production company, Berry Enterprises Ltd., in August 1965, and by early April 1966 had laid the groundwork for establishing his own label, J&D Records. In order to fully utilize these two personal companies, Jan was working diligently toward a legal separation from Screen Gems at the time of the accident. Overnight, the crash ended Jan’s musical career, ended his dream of becoming a doctor, and changed his life forever. With brain damage and partial paralysis, Jan’s challenges were immense. He was released from UCLA Medical Center in mid-June 1966, and immediately resumed intensive therapy at Cedars-Sinai Rehabilitation Center. One year to the month after the accident, Jan returned to the studio in April 1967—with original compositions—to arrange and produce the first sessions for what became “Carnival of Sound.” He spent the rest of his life trying to come back from Dead Man’s Curve. His biography is forthcoming from McFarland.



Another good luck/bad luck story. One very lucky man in Corvette vs truck crash that experts call too common

Peter Roberts editor



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