



**Sponsored By
ELCO Chevrolet**



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our September activities: Alaskan cruise, Eureka Springs trip, and all the other activities. Remember our dues collection is going on and must be paid by the October business meeting. The new updated Roster has been emailed. If there are any changes, let Brian know.

We want to thank all those who helped with the VA cleanup and mulching.

The Veterans Day Parade will be in St. Charles Saturday November 8th please sign up at the meeting.

Don and I thank Brian and Rick for standing in for us at the August meeting.

Don't forget to sign in and get your 50/50 ticket. We know Dennis has now set a quota.

I want to wish everyone well who has been ill or has had surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The next regular club meeting is scheduled for September 2nd. Hope to see you all there.

As always, we, your board, are open to suggestions and ideas to make our club more fun and better. You can text me at 314-799-2749.

Your President,
John Jordan

PS: REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE A COMMITTEE REPORT OR COMMENTS LET ME KNOW
BEFORE THE MEETING SO WE CAN ADD IT TO THE AGENDA.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Kusky

Julie Willis

Kimberlie Gerecke

Jerry Schmidt

Steve Bushur

Patti Kusky

Lynda Roth

Jim Love

Marilyn Panter

John Lasinski

Marian Glandt

Vicki Hoogveld

Tom Marlo

Randy Rickermann

C. W. Riehlman

ANNIVERSARIES

Mark & Denise Shipley

Jerry & Pam Schmidt

Steve & Kim Marre

Ray & Pam Queen

Bob & Chris Woods

STLCC Anniversary Milestones

5 Year

Mike and Judy Henges

There were no 20-year, 15-year, or 10-year club anniversaries in September.

Meeting Minutes

The St. Louis Corvette Club met at ELCO Chevrolet in Ballwin, MO on August 5, 2025. Membership Officer Brian Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Brian led us with the Pledge of Allegiance.

He introduced the Club officers: Brian acted for John Jordan, and Rick Doerr stepped in for Don Pickles as Don and Anne are on vacation.

President: John Jordan	Vice President: Don Pickles
Membership: Brian Walsh	Treasurer: Anne Pickles
Secretary: June Walsh	Sergeant at Arms: Dennis Trost
Immediate past president: Karen Price	Sponsor: ELCO Chevrolet Mark Gerecke and Eric DeBruin

Brian went over the following information:

- He thanked everyone for attending tonight. He reminded everyone of the 50/50 tickets, event sign-up sheets, and retiree lunch sign-up.
- He welcomed a guest, Austin Walter, who has a C6 2008 LS3 Crystal Red Metallic.
- He thanked Kathy Mueller for the great newsletter and Steve Kirby for the outstanding website.
- Brian acknowledged August birthdays and anniversaries.
- He wished Russ and Brenda Lauer a happy 50th anniversary.
- He asked for a motion to accept the July Secretary Minutes. Chris Woods made a motion to accept. Mike Kunst seconded it. The motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Barry Seelig made a motion to accept the July Treasurer's Report. Judy Dooley seconded it. The motion passed.
- Membership Report: Brian reported no new members, and that we lost one Associate Member, Cheri Hopson, so please keep John Hopson in your prayers.
- Regular Members: 102
- Lifetime Members: 6
- Associate Members: 11

Total Members: 119

- Sponsors: 4
- Karen Price made a motion to approve the Membership Report. Ruth Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Brian asked members to please not respond to the club emails. Please email the sponsor of the event directly.
- Sponsor Report: Mark Gerecke – ELCO had a very good month in July with 300 cars sold. Steve and Kim Marre` bought the yellow corvette, Vickie and Robert bought a new Cadillac XT4. Alabama Bob (friend of the Howards) bought a car and Brenda and Russell Lauer bought a beautiful white E-Ray. 2026 Corvettes are starting to roll out, but he has two more 2025 Z06s coming in, one in yellow

and one in white. He has a red Z06 on the showroom floor and the Hysteria purple is still available. He also has a red mist convertible. He is working on the Hayride, maybe the 2nd weekend in November since the Veteran's Day parade is the first weekend. Mark is waiting to hear if the farm is open on the 2nd weekend.

- Brian thanked Mark and ELCO for their support.

Committee Reports

Charity – Judy McElhone reminded everyone to bring in sleepers for Newborns in Need, which is ongoing for September and October. Judy will not be at either of those meetings, but Michelle Finn will collect them for her. Michelle will have the Christmas tree up for the October meeting.

Corvette Hot Wheels – Marty Dooley explained to the club about a guy who takes the Hot Wheels apart and paints them whatever color and puts it in special packaging which displays a story on the back of the packaging. Marty thought it would be cool to get the hot wheel painted in our club color with the story of the club on the back of the package. He said it would cost around \$25 for each car and asked for a show of hands of who all would be interested. A lot of hands went up. Marty will bring a sample to the next meeting.

Nomination Committee – Val said it is time again to nominate for the Board next year. Please let Val and/or Pam Queen know if you are interested in a position or would like to nominate someone.

VA Garden - Karen Price acknowledged and thanked the group that showed up to clean up the garden on Saturday. They filled 20 bags of waste. They put in a new garden bed. Thank you to Ron and Mary Anne Hagenow, Dennis and Janet Trost, Mike and Karen Price, CW Riehlman, Sherri Marlo, Marty Dooley, Rick Doerr and Mike McElhone. Please consider coming to the garden on Thursday, August 7th at 9:00 a.m. to help with the mulch.

Vice President's Report – Rick Doerr reviewed past events and future events. They are as follows:

Past Events

July

1st – Monthly Meeting at ELCO

4th – Webster Groves Parade – sponsored by Don & Anne Pickles. Mike Kunst gave a report on the parade and how well attended the parade was. Rick showed us the certificate we won from Webster Groves for Best Classical Entry!

11th - Bunco – sponsored by Mike & Karen Price

12th – Upshot Coffee

16th – Retiree Luncheon at Llywelyn's Pub in Webster Groved sponsored by Don & Anne Pickles. Rick said only 17 showed and he reminded members to make sure you call the sponsor if you can't make it after you signed up as restaurants call in extra help for big groups such as we have for our luncheons so just as a courtesy to the sponsor and restaurant, let them know if you need to cancel.

19th – Luau – sponsored by Steve & Dawn Kirby – Steve reported that the Luau had about 28-30 people show. The rain held off. He reported that no one got in the pool.

22nd – ALS luncheon at Hawthorne Inn in Labadie. Sponsored by Val Zeisset, Ruth Howard, and Pam Queen- 40 people showed up and it was a good day. Members came who did not even know Sandy Kirby.

24th – Sangria and Sunset – sponsored by Jim and Bev Givens.

27th – Fritz's – sponsored by Ken & Barbie Payne.

Rick reported that the Veteran's Parade is scheduled for November 8th in St. Charles.

Future Events

August

5 – Monthly Meeting at ELCO

9th – Coffee and Corvettes at On the Grind in Crystal City sponsored by the Givens.

9th – Bunco sponsored by Mike and Judy McElhone.

16th – The Jim Weddle Car Collection. Ron Hagenow is rescheduling this event and will let us know the new date at the September meeting.

20th – Retiree Luncheon – Joe Bacardi's – sponsored by Rick Frierdich and Pat Ross.

22nd – September 5th – Alaskan Cruise - sponsored by the Paynes.

27th – 30th – NCM 31st Anniversary – Check the museum website for details.

28th – Sangria and Sunset – sponsored by the Givens.

31st – Fritz's – sponsored by the Paynes.

In September Rick Frierdich wanted Rick to let the club know that there are 38 signed up for the dinner train. There is room and still time to add if you are interested.

John Jordan wanted the club to know about the Rumble in Manchester Car show on the 8th – 8 different classes and \$20 entry fee. There is a flyer in the back, and it is not a club event.

September 24th is the annual ladies Josephine run. Ruth says you do not have to drive your corvette. You can bring your mom, sister, whoever you want. There is a sign-up sheet in the back.

Karen Price thanked Ron Hagenow again for slaving in the heat cooking all the hamburgers and brats while Mike drove in the parade.

Barry Seelig – There is a big car show over at the St. Charles Community College Labor Day weekend on Sunday. Last year they had 247 cars with a fair number of corvettes there. They give \$10,000 to Backstoppers. There's music and the Lions Club supplies hot dogs and the usual stuff. There is a 50/50 drawing and silent auction. Registered entrants vote on the awards.

Rick reported that we have 18 events in July and August. He thanked everyone for our active club.

Randy Howard said on September 6th from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. ELCO is letting us use their bay for an event with Mothers Wax. Their VP of Sales and Marketing will be demonstrating the products and giving products out. He will talk about his products as well as other products. This is open to our club, Looking Glass, and NCRS members. Limit to 30-40 people. You will need to park on the back lot across the bridge.

Mark Gerecke – Ruth, Randy Val and Dale referred another guy who bought a white pre-owned corvette. He has never sold this many cars to club members in one month. Mark said ELCO is a high-volume dealer; he asks that in dealings with ELCO that we please be kind. ELCO is not perfect, things do happen, so just please be kind.

Karen reported that John Midkiff is newly retired.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ALL EVENTS.

New Business

CW Riehlman reported that Robert Hoogveld bought tickets to Corvettes at Carlisle in Carlisle PA on August 21-23. He cannot go so he is giving them away. Val said he gave the tickets to them at Sangria and Sunsets.

CW Riehlman recently painted the calibers on his car as he wanted them red. Robert was able to get stickers to put on the calibers that say “Grand Sport” if anyone is interested.

The Lauer’s are selling their 2015 Corvette Stingray for \$43,500 in immaculate condition. 29,000 miles. Let Russ know if you are interested.

Mark announced that Maggie and Steve drove to South Carolina for a 2013 Grand Sport, white with tan convertible, and will be delivered to them on Thursday.

Brian reported that he sent out a new roster yesterday. He is also accepting renewal

checks for membership. He also mentioned that the Bunco venue for August and September has recently changed and wanted everyone to be aware that August will be at Mike and Judy McElhone's house and September will be at Dawn and Steve Kirby's house.

Good and Welfare

Ruth announced that Patty and Bob Kusky's son, Joe, has been diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma. They are requesting our prayers so please keep the Kusky family in your thoughts and prayers.

- Brian tested everyone's knowledge of Corvettes with several trivia questions.
- Brian thanked Mike and Karen Price for bringing dessert.
- June read thank-you notes from Pat Cox and Jim Givens. Please keep them both in your prayers as they figure out what is going on with Pat and Jim faces another surgery on August 15th.
- Congratulations to Mike Price for winning \$78 in the 50/50 raffle.
- Brian acknowledged we had fifty-two regular members, one lifetime member, two sponsors, and one guest in attendance tonight.
- Brian asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Kunst made a motion to adjourn, and Barry Seelig seconded the motion. The motion passed, and Brian adjourned the meeting.
- The next meeting will be on September 2nd at ELCO Chevrolet.

***** PLEASE REMEMBER TO ARRIVE AFTER 6:30 PM AND TO BRING YOUR CHAIRS TO THE MEETING *****

Respectfully submitted,
June Walsh
Secretary

In Memoriam
Cheri Hopson
By Ron Hagenow

We are sad to learn of Cheri Hopson's passing on July 6, 2025. She and her husband John joined the club in 2010 and were active members. They were part of the snowbird faction of the club. They spent their winters in Florida and their summers in St. Louis. They also belonged to a Corvette Club in Florida. If I recall correctly, John had one of the first C6 Grand Sports in the club which they drove between St. Louis and Florida. Several years ago, she and John decided to make their permanent residence in Florida but they remained associate members of the club as well. The picture below is of her and John along with Randy Howard and Gary and Jan Murray at their first Eureka Springs event in 2010.



In Memoriam
Kathy Wooldridge
By Ron Hagenow

We are sad to learn of Kathy Wooldridge's passing on August 24, 2025. Kathy and Bruce have been integral members of the club since joining in March 2019. Some of the words that I think best describe her are up-beat, bubbly, energetic, outgoing and always positive. While we knew she had been dealing with health issues for some time, it was still a shock to hear of her passing. I believe the last time we saw her at a function was the retiree's lunch at Ethyl's in April. She had lost most of her hair again but still had more than some of us guys. She will truly be missed. Our condolences go out to Bruce and family. Here are some pictures of happier times.





Committee Reports & Sponsor Reports

NCM Ambassadors Report

This weekend we will be attending the 31st Annual Anniversary celebration of the National Corvette Museum (Aug. 28-30). We will share highlights and details from this event in our next newsletter, so stay tuned for updates!

Marty and Judy Dooley

NCM Ambassadors

Future Events



&



When:

- Saturday, September 13th @ 8:30am

Where:

- Little Ireland Coffee
- 125 N First St
- Pacific, MO

Come for the Coffee, Stay for the People!!

Sponsored by Jim & Bev Givens

314.341.3383

STLCC - B U N C O Night



HOSTED BY the Kirby's

SATURDAY, Sep 13th, 6:00pm

17004 Lakeside Ridge,

Chesterfield, MO 63005

Eat at 6:00, Bunco at 7:00

Bring \$5.00 per person and a dish to share.

Beer and Soda Provided

Signup at next meeting, or

dawnstroup@sbcglobal.net or

steve_kirby@sbcglobal.net

Please park in driveway, along 1 side

of the cul-de-sac or along main road, thanks.

ST. LOUIS CORVETTE CLUB

SEPTEMBER RETIREE LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

11:00 A.M.



17352 Manchester Road

Wildwood, Missouri 63038

<https://www.bigchiefstl.com/>

Hosted by Jim & Marilyn Panter

Please email Jim at jimbo3927@gmail.com



September 24, 2025

Meet at Syberg's restaurant at 2430 Old Dorsett Road at 10:00. We will depart at 10:15 as Josephine's is requesting that we be there by 10:45.

We have lunch reservations at 11:00 and after lunch everyone is welcome to visit their shops. If you have never been here, it's a great outing for ladies. The food is fabulous, and the shops are lots of fun. Feel free to bring a guest, your sister, your mom or anyone! Please don't feel like you must drive a Corvette!

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie (618) 719-4937, val56@aol.com. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting.

Please RSVP by September 20th! Looking forward to having a fun time as usual!



Sangria Sunsets

(4th Thursday of each Month, April – October)

Sept 25th, Oct 23rd)

Sunset Overlook

11604 Bluff Road

Columbia, IL 62236

5:30pm - ?????

Come when you can. Rain, shine, snow or sleet.



St. Louis Corvette Club Monthly Ice Cream Run March Until October

- When:** Sunday
September 28th
October 26th
- Where:** Fritz's Frozen Custard
815 Meramec Station Road, Valley Park, MO 63088
- Time:** 5:30 PM Until We All Leave
- What:** Come For The Custard
Stay For The People
-



Future Events Not Sponsored by STLCC

The below event is not sponsored by the St. Louis Corvette Club, but is included for your information.



Mothers Automated Solutions enters automated car care sector

MOTHERS
Polishes•Waxes•Cleaners



**Mothers Wax Seminar Demonstration And
Products Supplies**

Provided By Nick Tosie, VP. Sales Mothers Wax

On Saturday September 6th 12:30 to 3:00

**At ELCO Main Service Bay. Please Park Across
Small Bridge In Rear Service Area.**

DO NOT PARK IN ELCO'S MAIN PARKING LOT



15110 Manchester Rd Ballwin MO 63011-4632

Past Events

VA Garden Cleanup

Sponsored by Karen and Mike Price

Article by Karen Price

Photos by Karen Price and Terry Mueller

On Saturday August 2nd a group of dedicated members took to the task of cleaning up the Building 52 garden that the club has maintained for over 20 years. A pickup truck pulled up and out jumped a small ninja armed with a weed trimmer (Sherri Marlo) who took on the task of getting the overgrown English Garden's ivy under control. Diligently she worked with Ron Hagenow and Janet Trost to gather all of the debris and place it into bags. Dennis Trost also had a weed trimmer and began undertaking the task of cleanup!

Marty Dooley, who has faithfully maintained the garden area for over 20 years, came up with a plan to replace all of the rock in the bed areas and also to create a new garden along the wall to the parking lot, which was just a patch of weeds. While Rick Doerr, CW Riehlman, and Marty shoveled rock to fill in the areas by the Bocci Ball court, MaryAnn Hagenow and Karen began pulling the weeds. Armed with a leaf blower that rivaled the All-State Mayhem man, Mike McElhone kept the debris blown into piles and off the pathways.

Onto the idea of the new bed – Immediately Dennis jumped into action and cleared away the area for the new bed. MaryAnn and Janet discovered Iris plants that were buried and began to hand dig them up and replant in a strategic layout only second to the White House gardens. Marty cut out the landscape fabric while Rick and CW shoveled rock and began to fill the area. The boys then moved the fountain that had been stored behind the shed to the center of the new garden. Meanwhile, Karen had enlisted the help of her man servant, Mike, to make a run to find mulch, garden soil and plants for the new planter repurposed from the fountain. He returned with 20 bags of mulch, garden soil, and plants and the team sprang into action to finish the project. Meanwhile, CW continued to rake leaves into bags out from behind the Magnolia trees. The accumulation of leaves in this area was about 6 inches deep.

20 bags of debris were filled and the boys, (ask that petite ivy ninja Sherri what she nicknamed them) took a break while the girls continued on.

The team finished after 3 hours of intense labor and headed off to Billy G's for a well-deserved lunch, minus CW who was greatly missed.







We decided that more mulch would be needed to fill in behind the Magnolia trees, so Dennis immediately volunteered to get a trailer load of mulch. On the following Thursday August 7th, Dennis guided the truck and large trailer through the winding parking lot and through the gate opening with the precision of a surgery procedure to get the trailer as close to the garden area as possible. The Wheelbarrow brigade began, Val Zeisset, Mike Price and Ron Hagenow lined up while Dennis shoveled the mulch with the assistance of Mike McElhone, armed with a snow shovel.

Terry Mueller spread the mulch like a cake decorator icing a wedding cake while MaryAnn and Kathy Mueller began the task of pulling weeds, grass etc. out of the garden areas to prep for mulch. The teamwork was unbelievable, and the job was completed within a couple of hours in the heat.

For those members who have never visited the garden area, please take the time to see the effort put in by our members to make this a peaceful, beautiful place for them to escape the pressures of being in the hospital. The Vets are always quick to thank

us for doing this when we should be grateful for their service to keep us free!

The watering teams of Marty Dooley, the Pickles, the Trosts, the Marlos, the fill-ins - the Panthers, and anyone else whom I have forgotten to mention are dedicated to making sure that the gardens have survived in the heat. Please thank them, we could not continue this 20-year commitment to our most precious service men and women without them.

We will be having another mulch day and a fall clean up, so think about coming out and making the task easier!

Thank you to all who have worked on this project in the past and currently.

Karen Price







Bunco

Hosted by Mike and Judy McElhone

Photos by Terry Mueller









August Retirees' Lunch

Hosted by Rick Frierdich and Pat Ross

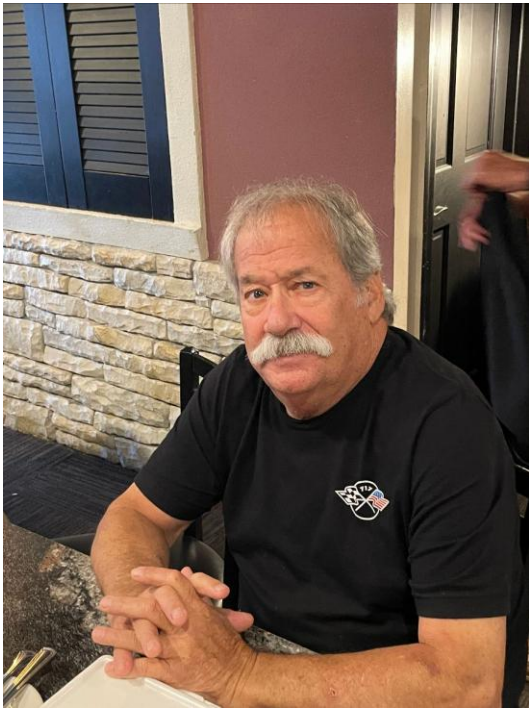
Photos by Ron Hagenow













Features and Announcements

Hello Eureka Springs Corvette Weekend Friends!

Mike and I will be exploring The Last Frontier of Alaska at the next meeting, so we wanted to get information about our trip. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September business meeting for events during the weekend. All these events are optional and just a suggestion for us to do as a group. As always, we sit around together as a group before heading off to bed. If you are not at the meeting, please contact me directly after Sept 7th.

Thursday - Depending on when you have reservations, we usually meet at the McDonald's by six flags around 9 a.m. to caravan down. We stop at Freddy's in St. Robert for lunch and then continue to Eureka Springs to go to registration if you so desire to support the event for the weekend. I will be making reservations for us to eat around 5 p.m. at Local Flavor - or if someone has a different suggestion, please let me know.

Friday - I thought it might be fun to leave around 8 a.m. and take the back roads over to Bentonville to arrive at the Walmart Museum around opening at 9 a.m. There is an ice cream shop that we could indulge in at noon and then head over to Crystal Bridges Art Museum and walking trails for a couple of hours before heading back for our train dinner reservations at 5 p.m. We would leave around 3 p.m. to be back by 4 p.m. to head to the train station at 4:30. Kathy Mueller has sent out information as to how to make your requests for dinner and payment on a separate email, but I have included this on the form.

Saturday - Marty has always led us on a fun trip out to the Grist Mill in the morning and then we arrived back at the car show to enjoy the cars and allow our Veterans to be recognized. Lunch is enjoyed by your choice and then there is a poker run which is always fun. I will be making reservations at Gaskin's Cabin, The Great Passion Play or McGarity's Irish pub depending on the size of the group going.

If you have questions, please get hold of me. There are a ton of things to explore, and shopping is always fun exploring the eclectic shops that are on the trolley run.

Hope to see you soon,
Karen

Articles

The St. Louis Corvette Club
Historical Society Column
By Ron Hagenow
History Committee: Ron Hagenow, Marty Dooley, and Mike Price

Hopefully the heat and the “dog days of summer” are slowly behind us so we can enjoy a little cooler weather for our Corvette endeavors. Looking back, former regular

members and now associate members Gary and Debbie Tidwell joined us in 2008. They just can't stay out of Florida for the winter. Meanwhile, Tom and Sherri Marlo joined us in 2011. Then Ken and Barb Payne joined the club in 2016 and Mike and Judy Henges joined us in 2020. September 2022 was busy as both John Jordan and Joyce Newbauer joined us along with Robert and Vicki Hoogveld. We hardly got to know Dave Simorka before his untimely passing but Rhonda has stuck with us as they joined just a year ago in 2024.

When Gary and Debbie joined in 2008, yours truly was president and Mary Ann was secretary. We were meeting at Sunset Lakes Golf and Banquet Center and we had 81 members. Highlight for that month was the Historic Motorama coming through St. Louis and the club, along with several others, hosted a get-together for the participants. There was one car of every year from 1953 through 2008 in the Motorama. We also had a club picnic at the Sugar Creek Winery in Defiance, MO. When Tom and Sheri joined in 2011, Marty Dooley was our president and we had 92 members. One of the notable events this month was a covered bridge festival in Park County, IN.

When Ken and Barb joined in 2016, Mike Price was president and we were trying out Pupillo's Banquet Center near our former meeting place, Grand Slam. Unfortunately, Pupillo's closed after several months. Membership Chair Judy Giovanoni announced we had 98 members in the club. The fun events this month were the club picnic in Millstadt and a dinner at Villa Antonio Winery. We were also looking at new club shirts and finally settled on what we have today. When Mike and Judy joined in 2020, Don Pickles was president. It was also the same month that the "grandfather" of the club, Jerry Craig, had passed away. He was responsible for founding the club and was a long-time racer. It was truly an honor to know him. I will post his "in memoriam" column done by me at that time later in this newsletter.

When John, Joyce, Robert and Vicki joined in 2022 (hey, that sounds like a movie title!), Jim Givens was club president and we were meeting at ELCO. We had 101 members in the club at that time. The club picnic and the annual ladies' day outing were highlighted this month. Finally, when Dave and Rhonda joined, Karen Price was our president and we had 97 members in the club. It seemed that month we had a whole host of either hospitalized or sick members which seems like a continuing theme as we all get older (that is, everyone but me!).

Here are a few September pictures:



From the Motorama get-together in September 2008, none other than new members Gary and Debbie Tidwell.



Mark and Eric showed up for the picnic in September 2011 in a yellow Corvette. (This one is for Robert).



Some of the gentlemen at the Villa Antonio Winery dinner in 2016.



We had a get together for Gary and Erin Duke when they were visiting us while living in Florida. Finally, they got smart and moved back permanently. Can you tell what was going on with all the masks?

In Memoriam
Jerry W. Craig
By Ron Hagenow

On the 5-year anniversary of the passing of Jerry Craig, this appeared in the October 2020 newsletter.

One of our founding members and club icon, Jerry Craig, died on September 23, 2020. Jerry was instrumental in founding our club and has been associated with Corvettes and racing almost his entire life. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jeff and Patty, Peggy and Bob, Jerry's brother Paul and wife Kathy as well as his in-laws John and Pam Corrora and Dick and Conita Shoulders.

Where to begin? First, you won't meet a kinder or gentler man. Jerry was a friend to everyone he met. He did so many things in the background and never sought any recognition. Jerry was a retired engineering professor at Washington University and authored and published several engineering texts during his career. Besides racing, he was also active in boating and sailing. Even when his health declined in recent years, he started tinkering with a ham radio again and taught himself Morse code. You never saw Jerry in poor spirits and he was always seeking to improve himself and those around him.

Stories about Jerry would take up too many pages. I am sure each of us has our own favorite memories of him. Here are just a few that I recall...

Rumors were always floated about that when the Corvette plant was in St. Louis,

certain “special” parts would make their way out the back door for “testing”. Jerry would neither confirm nor deny he received any but there was a twinkle in his eye when he talked about it.

There is also the story about Jerry racing at Elkhart Lake if I remember correctly. Apparently a young guy in a supercharged Mustang wasn’t going to let this “old” guy in his Corvette beat him. Yep, he blew up the Mustang trying to keep up with Jerry.

I remember Jerry and Armynta taking their C5 from St. Louis to California. They drove all up the coast, stopping at wineries along the way. Now you can’t put much wine in a trunk of a C5 convertible so they had to ship everything home. I think Jerry mentioning that it was an expensive trip.

And while some of us (namely me) like to baby our cars and keep the mileage down, Jerry drove his. I believe his old 84 had over 300,000 miles. Jerry sold and rebought it back several times.

One of the best times we’ve had in the club was going to the National Corvette Museum in June 2008 for Jerry and Armynta’s Museum delivery of their 2008 convertible, 50 years to the day from when they got their first new one in 1958. Both cars were black with a cream top. We took over the Museum with our cars on display that day. You may see some of the older club members still wearing t-shirts we had made for the event.

In 2016, Jerry purchased a tickets for a car raffle at the NCM and he won! How many other people do you know with that kind of luck? Again some club members went down to the Museum for his delivery. But I believe Jeff was more excited getting checked out in it than Jerry. Jerry’s love of C4s never went away.

The last time I was with Jerry was at the NCM during the Labor Day Celebration in 2019. Jerry was doing a track day and I got to ride along with him. We’re flying down the straights at about 120 mph and 80 mph in the curves and all Jerry was saying was he wished we could pick up the pace as it was too slow for him!

I am sure that when Jerry got to heaven, Armynta was waiting for him with his glass of

orange juice in a Waterford crystal glass, which she did each day. Then I know the two will be enjoying a nice glass of wine. We will all miss you two.

For our newer members, I'm reprinting an article from a previous newsletter that Jerry wrote which outlines his influence in starting the club.

How Did the Club Get Started?

From time to time we have listed how the club got started. Here is a reprint of an article from February 2014 by Jerry Craig, the "godfather" of our club.

It was June 1953. My friend Bill Curson and I were at the Sports Car Club of America meeting. We were a couple of high school kids who flagged races and helped the SCCA. I spotted Mack Yates at the far end of the bar with six or eight people. Mack was the general manager for Barford Chevrolet in Ladue. He commented that they were having the first meeting of the St. Louis Corvette Club. The Corvette had been announced, and spy pictures were in the magazines. The group at the meeting had all ordered Corvettes but no one had really seen one. I was partial to Corvettes. Bill went to the dark side – Porsche.

Barford Chevrolet was poised to be the top Corvette dealer in the country. An affluent area and the Corvette plant was in St. Louis. Mack was an avid sports car racer. He built a strong group of owners and was the first STLCC president. Bob Spooner was the second president. Bob raced the "Purple People Eater" Corvette after Jim Jeffords. I was the third president from 1958 to 1962. I raced a 1959 Corvette prepared by VV Cooke. Each year the Route 66 television show would trade in their old Corvettes at Barford as they filmed their way up Route 66. Mack would wholesale the beaten and worn movie star cars as they were in terrible shape.

Meetings and events were very informal. No rules and no dues. SCCA road racing was the main interest. We did go to restaurants and had rallies and economy runs. Channel 5 actually filmed an economy run on Sunday. Fuel injection Corvettes could be set to full lean and get 40-50 mpg! Unheard of mileage in those days but one had to be very careful not to accelerate very fast. (And proof the apple doesn't fall far

from the tree, Jeff leaned out the carburetor on his 1978 to win the fuel economy run at Eureka Springs several years ago.)

In 1962, the St. Louis Corvette Club was part of the formation of the National Council of Corvette Clubs.

Managing Editor	Kathy Mueller
Columnist	Ron Hagenow
Senior Photo Journalist	Terry Mueller
Photo Journalist	Ruth Howard
Aerial Photo Journalist	Tom Marlo
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