



**Sponsored By
ELCO Chevrolet**



President's Message

Welcome to Fall 2022!!!!

Before we realize it, our cars will be put away for the winter.

The Farmer's Almanac warns this winter will be cold and snowy for people living in Kansas and Missouri. Fox2News stated, and I quote, "Upcoming St. Louis winter described as hibernation zone." It sounds like we should stock up on everything a family needs to survive, and don't forget to stock up on firewood, de-icer, salt and get those snow shovels out from behind the rakes and leaf blowers.

September has been another busy month. We had an awesome turnout for the picnic and had plenty of food. The St Louis County Police, Precinct 4, thanked us for the food delivery after the picnic. The weather was great and we had many faces we haven't seen in a while, truly a great day. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Bev and I have discovered a nice place to enjoy sangria while the sun sets. Stay tuned for another monthly event, possibly "Sangria sunsets" or "Saturday or Sunday sunsets". We are still in the "alfa test" stage. We are working through each day of the week to ensure we choose the best possible day for this monthly event.

October is just as busy, so take a look at the calendar and choose the events you want to attend. See ya next week at the meeting.

Jim

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Ken Payne	Oct 2
Rick Frierdich	Oct 3
Theresa Luebcke	Oct 8
Loretta Vogt	Oct 18
Roger Reinhardt	Oct 24
Marie Chance	Oct 25
Marcia Sheer	Oct 27
Laurie Grubb	Oct 28
John Hopson	Oct 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Rich & Theresa Luebcke	Oct 7
Kirt & Marcia Sheer	Oct 10
Micah & Khourtney Miller	Oct 13
Robert & Vicki Hoogveld	Oct 14
Jeff & Patty Craig	Oct 20
Bruce & Kathy Wooldridge	Oct 23

Meeting Minutes

The St. Louis Corvette Club met at ELCO Chevrolet on September 5, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Givens @ 7:00 p.m.

Barry Seelig started the meeting with a joke.

Jim thanked our sponsors for the use of the dealership for our meeting and dinner.

Presiding Officers:

President: Jim Givens	Vice President: Karen Price
Membership: Judy Giovanoni	Treasurer: Patti Kusky - absent
Secretary: Angie Midkiff	Sergeant at Arms: Jack Braznell
Immediate past president: Don Pickles	Sponsor: ELCO Chevrolet Mark & Kim Gerecke and Eric & Vicky DeBruin

President Jim Givens welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Member Updates: Please keep everyone in your prayers.

Mike Price is finished with treatments and will meet with the doctor to check his blood counts. If all is well he'll be at the picnic.

Ron Hagenow is moving but he can't bend, lift or twist.

Michelle Finn reported that she had a "screw loose" in her foot. She had it repaired and will be walking in three weeks.

President Jim Givens offered a prayer for recovering members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Officers were introduced. Jim reminded members there would be a 50/50 drawing, attendance prize drawing, and sign-up sheets for attendance and future events were available.

Jim noted that 3 errors were found in the August minutes. He asked if there were any more issues about the secretary's minutes. Motions were made and the minutes were approved.

Angie Midkiff read letters from Ron Hagenow and Michelle Finn thanking everyone for their support during their convalescence.

Patti Kusky's treasurer report was sent out via email. Motions were made and the minutes were approved.

Membership Chairman Judy Giovanoni reminded everyone that she is collecting membership dues and they must be paid by the September meeting. Membership has not changed since last month.

Current membership totals:

- Regular Members: 101 (includes 12 Charter Members)
- Lifetime Members: 7 (includes 2 Charter Members)
- Associate Members: 4
- Total Members: 117 (excludes sponsors)

Membership Waiting List has 14 people waiting.

Charter Members

- Sharon Ballinger
- Patty & Jeff Craig
- Peggy Craig Bradley
- Judy & Marty Dooley
- June Fain
- Rich Frierdich
- Theresa & Rich Luebcke
- Karen & Mike Price
- Chris & Bob Woods

Judy reminded everybody that she is responsible for keeping track of event attendance. Please turn in your event attendance sheets if you haven't already. She has contacted members that may be a little shy on their event attendance.

The Craigs, Jenny Lanter, Josh Cate, and Jim Avery will not be renewing their memberships at the end of the year.

Committee Reports:

Sponsor Report: Eric reported business is good and Service and Cadillac are busy. He reminded us that he and Mark are here to help. Mark emphasized that ELCO is hitting their goals in all areas. Jim thanked the Gereckes and DeBruins for pizza and use of the dealership for club meetings.

Newsletter: Jim thanked Kathy Mueller for a great newsletter.

History Committee: Ron Hagenow, Marty Dooley, Peggy Craig – On target

Budget Committee: Randy Howard, Larry Akins, Ray Queen – Randy reported that there is a need in the club for more banner participation.

By-laws Committee: John Midkiff, Valerie Zeisset, Mike Price – On target

Charity: Michelle Finn, Judy Giovanoni, Sonja Giffhorn – Judy Giovanoni reported that Newborns in Need local chapter received recognition for their work. Newborns in Need is an annual event. The club collects new and gently used sleepers, sizes preemie to 4T, that are needed for the upcoming cold months. They can be brought in any time between now and the end of October. See Judy if you need a tax receipt.

The Christmas tree will be up next month. Gifts are due at the November meeting.

VA Garden – Marty Dooley, Judy Dooley, and Karen Price – Workers have been doing a great job keeping up with watering and maintenance.

The VA has a car show scheduled for November 12, 2022 from 10:30-2:30. It's titled American Muscle for American Veterans. There will be food, drinks and a 50/50. Please see the flyer on the website for more details.

National Corvette Museum Ambassador's Report: Marty and Judy Dooley – Tickets are still on sale for the museum banner at \$5 each. The new banner goes into effect in January.

Plant tours will start up in mid-November. Reservations need to be made as this is a popular activity.

Judy recognized memberships at the Museum Bash and at the meeting. The

Howards and Michelle Paillou were recognized for their 15 year memberships. The Luebckes were recognized for 20 years.

Theresa Luebcke reported that there is a new display in the area of Studio X, formerly run by Bill Mitchell. Many cars were designed in that room by female as well as male engineers. In 1967 it was shut down and is now an education area. It currently features women in motorsports.

The Bash featured classes and seminars. The movie "Boundless" was about a group of female sports car drivers. See Theresa Luebcke for more information.

Don't forget to check out the Corvette Store and the online car raffles.

Parade: Michelle Paillou, Rick Frierdich, Leslie Hoosier – Jim announced that the award we won from the Webster Parade was Outstanding Visiting Entry.

Rick Frierdich announced the Veterans Day Parade is on Saturday, November 5, 2022. To the best of his knowledge, everything will be as it was last year. There are two sign-up sheets. One for the parade and another for service specific or POW/MIA flags for the cars. For more information, please contact Rick.

Leslie has sent in an application for the Thanksgiving Parade. More information will be coming soon.

Website: Steve Kirby – Steve reported that Google Calendar is up and running. There are changes in the Website menu. If anyone has any problems or change requests please email him.

Nominating Committee: Ruth Howard, Judy Dooley – Nominees are needed to replace the President, Vice president and Secretary. Karen Price is the nominee

for the President. The nominee for Vice President is Brandon Hoosier. The nominee for Secretary is Leslie Hoosier. There can be more than one nomination for each position. Anyone interested please see Ruth or Judy.

Christmas Party: Chris Woods, Judy Dooley - The date is December 10 at the Legends Golf Course and it will be \$60.00 per person. The meal choices are 8 oz. Teriyaki Salmon, 14 oz. New York Strip Steak or Chicken Marsala. Chris has started collecting. You can pay at the meetings or mail your payment to her along with your entree selection. The cut-off date is November 10. See the website for more information.

NCCC Governor's Report: Larry Walker - NCCC had the Governors meeting. Jeff Craig is the Regional Competition Director. They want input on changes to the point system for the Championship Program. Larry asked for a show of hands for the changes to be made or for the program to stay the same. More hands supported making the changes.

Racing, rally and concourse events are posted on the NCCC website.

Vice President's report: Karen Price reporting:

August 7- Ken Baron Memorial Run to Castelli's Moonlight Café: Ruth Howard reported many family members attended and were very grateful. Fourteen cars attended.

August 13 - STLCC LUAU at the Grubbs house: A snow cone truck and a gallon of rum. It was fun and had perfect weather!

August 17 - Retirees lunch at The Corner Pub sponsored by Marc Portman: This was well attended with 39 people. The food and company were great.

August 20 - Cars and Coffee at the Annex Coffee and Foods. Sponsored by the Givens. Dr. Deb, a regular customer of Mark Gerecke, attended. Good food and coffee.

August 21-22 - Booneville trip sponsored by the Paynes. Barb reported they had good weather for the weekend. Some people came only to see the Clydesdales but it was a great time.

August 28 - Fritz's Custard sponsored by the Bradleys. Small turn out.

Events:

Date	Event	Sponsor
October 4	Monthly Club Meeting	The Board
October 8	Picnic at the Ramsey's Lake house	Jared and Traci Ramsey
October 14	Casey, IL Tour	The Grubbs
October 15	Cars and Coffee	The Givens
October 29	Trunk or Treat	The Givens
October 30	Fritz's Ice Cream	Peggy Bradley
November 1	Monthly Club Meeting	The Board
November 5	Veterans Day Parade	Rick Frierdich and Pat Ross
November 6	ELCO Hayride	Mark and Kim Gerecke
November 12	American Muscle for Amerian Vets Car Show	Marty Dooley
November 19	Cars and Coffee	The Givens
November 26	Caffeine and Chrome	
December 10	Christmas Party	Club - Judy Dooley and Chris Woods

Events can also be found on the Website along with event details.

New Business:

The club picnic will have a rally drive with questions in the morning, lunch at 12:30 and a visit to the Civil War Museum at 2:00 pm. The tickets are \$7.00.

Thank you to Diana and Larry Walker for providing cake for dessert.

Thank you to ELCO, Mark and Kim, Eric and Vicky for the use of the facilities and the pizza.

Congratulations to Eric DeBruin for winning the attendance prize gift card.

Congratulations to Steve Hedgorth for winning \$75.00 in the 50/50 drawing.

President Jim Givens asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion accepted.

Respectfully,

Angie Midkiff
Secretary

Committee Reports & Sponsor Reports

NCM Ambassadors Report

The National Corvette Museum and the Bowling Green Assembly Plant have announced plans to resume the Plant Tours. These plant tours are the only place in the world where Corvettes are manufactured.

Tours will go on sale to the public through the National Corvette Museum's website on Tuesday November 1, 2022. National Corvette Museum members qualify for early booking access, beginning on Tuesday November 25, 2022. Tour scheduling will take place at the time of purchase with public tours expected to resume before the end of the year.

At the NCM Anniversary Celebrations on Labor Day weekends, NCM Members reaching milestone anniversaries of their memberships receive recognition awards. The St. Louis Corvette Club had 5 of our members achieve recognition this year. It was our pleasure to recognize these members at our September club meeting.

Judy and Marty Dooley

NCM Ambassadors



Rich and Teresa Luebcke, 20 years!



Randy and Ruth Howard, 15 years!



Michelle Paillou, 15 years!



Hot Wheels cars donated by the Dooley's.

Future Events

ST. LOUIS CORVETTE CLUB
2ND ANNUAL
RAMSEY LAKE HOUSE
CORVETTE CRUISE!

226 ARROWHEAD LN.
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056

October 8th, 2022
11 a.m. - ????

- *BRING LAWN CHAIRS AND DRINKS**
- *POTLUCK STYLE - WE WILL HAVE SANDWICHES PLEASE BRING A SIDE TO SHARE**

ONLY AN HOUR AND 15 MIN FROM ST. LOUIS



This event is sponsored by Route 66 Corvette Club. As noted in the flyer, all persons in attendance must sign waiver.



**ROUTE 66 CORVETTE CLUB
Presents “Round-About”
4 Rally Events – October 8, 2022**

Rally number 1 (Gimmick Rally) – MW470-001 Rally number 2 (Chance Rally) – MW470-002
 Rally number 3 (Chance Rally) – MW470-003 Rally number 4 (Chance Rally) – MW470-004
Rallies will be run concurrently

<p><u>EVENT FEES</u> \$35.00 for all four events NO single event pricing</p> <p><u>NO PREREGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT- REGISTER DAY OF EVENTS ONLY</u></p>	<p><u>LOCATION</u> Poage Chevrolet Dealership 851 W. Pearce Blvd. Wentzville, MO 63385 636-327-6268 (for directions only)</p>	<p><u>ROUTE 66 CC GOVERNOR</u> Tom Reitz 314-496-3155 cell Fastglass95@yahoo.com</p> <p>Chairperson – Tom Reitz Co-Chairperson – Chris Reitz</p>
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Registration & Tech (Central Time)
 Registration: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
 Tech: 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM
 Drivers Meeting: 10:30 AM
 1st Car Off: following driver’s meeting

- **ALL PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE MUST SIGN WAIVER**
- **MUST Present Valid Driver’s License to participate**
- **NO alcoholic beverages permitted**
- **MUST BE NCCC member driving a Corvette to receive NCCC points**





St. Louis Corvette Club Day Trip to Casey, Illinois Friday, October 14

Meet in Columbia, IL at Red Roof Gas Station (right off Route 3 after JB Bridge) at 8:30 for 9:00 a.m. departure!

Arrive at 11:30 at Richards Farm Restaurant for lunch in Casey.

After lunch we will drive into Casey where there are many “large” items to see. Casey is home to eight attractions certified by Guinness World Records as the largest in the world. In addition to the world’s largest attractions, Casey offers visitors a plethora of large items to view, including the World’s Largest:

- * wind chime
- * golf tee
- * rocking chair
- * wooden shoes
- * mailbox
- *barbershop pole

Most items can be viewed by parking in downtown Casey and walking short distances to see them. (Or you can drive to each item.) We will meet up at 3 p.m. at Casey's Candy Depot (located in the old train depot) and home to the World's Largest Wooden Shoes to pick up sweets and then to caravan home.

RSVP: Laurie: lgrubb61@gmail.com or text 618-210-3197



&



When:

- Saturday, October 15th @ 9am

Where:

- Proving Ground Coffee Roaster & Cafe
- 180 Columbia Center
- Columbia, IL 62236

Come for the Coffee, Stay for the People!!

Sponsored by Jim & Bev Givens

314.341.3383

**October Retiree Lunch
Pupillo's Wicked Chicken Cafe
Hosted by Ray and Pam Queen**



The Corvette Club retiree lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Pupillo's Wicked Chicken. The address is 3021 High Ridge Boulevard, High Ridge, MO 63049.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting.

**STLCC CASINO/LUNCH DAY
RIVER CITY CASINO
OCTOBER 25, 2022**



River City Casino

Beerhouse Restaurant

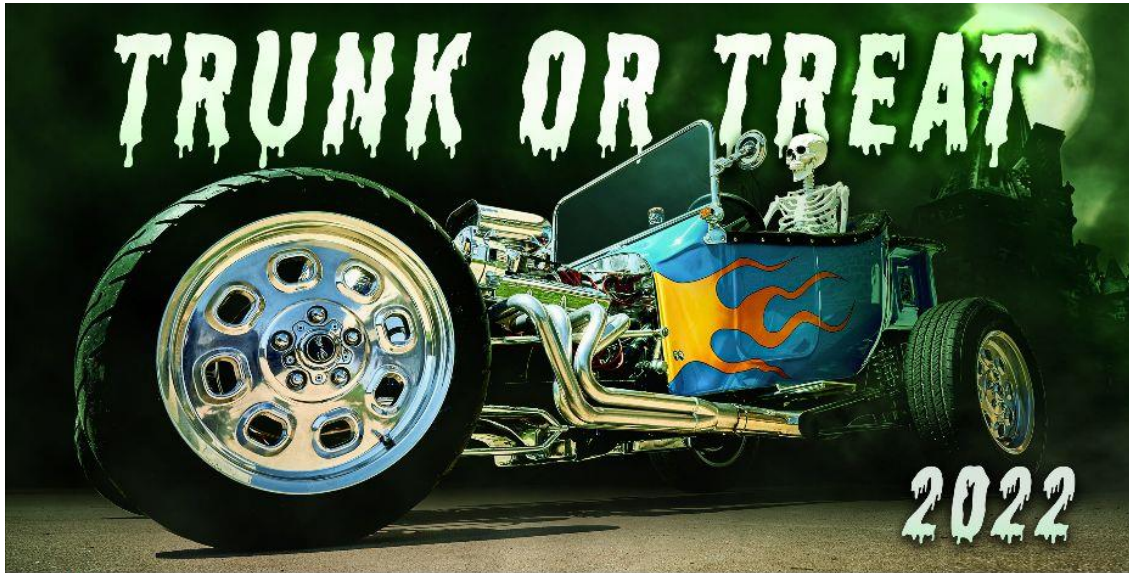
Come join us for a day of fun! The last time we had a casino group was 2019. If you are interested in gambling arrive at 11:00 and then at 12:30 we will go to the Beerhouse for lunch reservations. If you don't care to gamble you're welcomed to join us for lunch!

<https://www.rivercity.com/dining/the-beerhouse.com>





Sponsored by the Howard's & Price's

Sign up sheet will be at meeting or contact Karen or Ruth to sign up

Reservations have to be received by October 22nd



Join Gateway Classic Cars for the spookiest event of the year, Trunk or Treat, on October 29, 2022 from 9:00am - 2:00pm.

-  **FREE COFFEE & PASTRIES**
-  **CAR COSTUME CONTEST**
-  **TRICK-OR-TREATING**
-  **ACTIVITIES, PRIZES, & MORE**



OCTOBER 29TH, 9:00AM - 2:00PM

1237 Central Park Dr, O'Fallon, IL 62269

BECOME A FEATURED CAR CLUB

Do you want to feature your car club at one of our Caffeine and Chrome Events?
Call 855-687-9820 or visit www.gatewayclassiccars.com

GET READY FOR

BUNCO

EAT DRINK AND ROLL SOME
DICE

HOSTED BY JUDY GIOVANONI AND KAREN
PRICE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH @ 6PM.

THE PRICE'S

2400 OAKMONT CT. HIGH RIDGE, MO. 63049

BRING \$5.00 PER PERSON AND A DISH TO
SHARE.

EAT AT 6 AND BEGIN PLAY AT 7.

DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

RSVP BY 10/24/22

JUDY 636-236-7294

OR

KAREN 314-954-4803





ST. LOUIS CORVETTE CLUB

ANNUAL HAYRIDE SPONSORED BY ELCO

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 6TH – 4:00 pm

**Dickherber Farms
7063 Highway N
Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368**



Please come out and join us for a great night around the firepit cooking hotdogs, sharing stories, and going for a ride on the hay wagon!

Hotdogs are furnished by ELCO. Please bring your own sides, snacks, desserts, and your own drinks. Don't forget your chairs to sit around the fire pit. Don't forget to bring a hot dog stick!



"AMERICAN MUSCLE FOR AMERICAN VETS"

VA St. Louis Health care System's 1st Annual Car Display
Presented by the St Louis Corvette Club

Saturday November 12th, 2022 10:30 AM—2:30 PM
St Louis VAMC-Jefferson Barracks Bldg 1 Parking Lot,
1 Jefferson Barracks Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125
(Exit onto Koch Rd. not Telegraph Rd.)

This is a Show and Shine event— **"DISPLAY ONLY"**
Come show off your car and salute the troops!
VA booths including enrollment
and services will be onsite

Scan the QR Code or Search "American Muscle"
on EventBrite to Register your Vehicle.
For more Info, email: VASTLEvents@va.gov



****Masking is currently required on VA grounds****

Refreshments will be available for purchase

All Proceeds proudly support Veterans of VA St. Louis Health Care System



The poster features a warm, golden-brown background with a blurred image of a Christmas tree and a large, ornate gold and white Christmas ornament. White decorative swirls and lines frame the text. The text is centered and reads:

ST LOUIS CORVETTE CLUB

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 10, 2022

(5:30p.m.-10p.m.)

5:30p.m. – Cocktails & Appetizers

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

\$60.00 per person (cash bar)

Payments made to "St. Louis Corvette Club"

Entrée Selections

(select 1 entrée only)

Chicken Marsala (1 Breast)

Teriyaki Salmon (8oz)

New York Strip Steak (14oz)

(Entrée includes salad, seasonal vegetables medley, shallot whipped potatoes, dinner rolls, coffee, tea or lemonade & dessert-Apple Pie Alamo or Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Sauce)

The Legends Country Club

625 Legends Parkway

Eureka, MO 63025

Please RSVP by Nov 10th to Chris Woods @ 314-846-6176 or email Chris and indicate your entrée & dessert selection at Woods1890@sbcglobal.net"

Past Events

NCM 28th Anniversary Celebration

By Mike Kunst

The 70th Anniversary edition Corvette is available in two exterior colors, White Pearl Metallic (Tri-Coat) and Carbon Flash Metallic. Each comes with subtle full length stripes.



Above: Stingray versions of the 70th Anniversary editions.



Above: Z06 versions of the 70th Anniversary editions.



Above: The exclusive interior for the 70th Anniversary edition includes special 70th Anniversary features. The exterior includes special badges and red line wheels.



Above: An Amplify Orange Z06 and an Elkhart Lake Blue HTC Z06.



The NCM had just received this LT6 engine from GM. It was the engine that was run on a dynamometer for 8,000 continuous hours at varying speeds. The project

to develop the LT6 was code named Gemini. There are 54 rockets on the engine; some are hidden.



Four of the STLCC Charter Members enjoying the 28th NCM Anniversary. Theresa & Rich Luebcke and Judy & Marty Dooley.



Some people found their names on the wall.



Currently on display in the exhibit hall. Judy and Mike go for a race!



What would a trip to Bowling Green be without dinner at Rafferty's?

The St. Louis Corvette Club Annual Picnic











The winners of the road rally were:

First place - The Grubbs

Second place - The Midkiffs

Third place - Mike Kunst and Mike Price





Coffee and Corvettes

Hosted by Jim and Bev Givens

It was a beautiful day at Pour 322 in Belleville. Valerie came for the coffee and stayed by herself. Yep, she was the only one there.



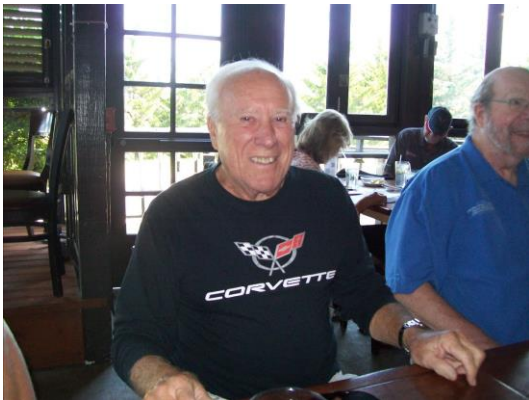
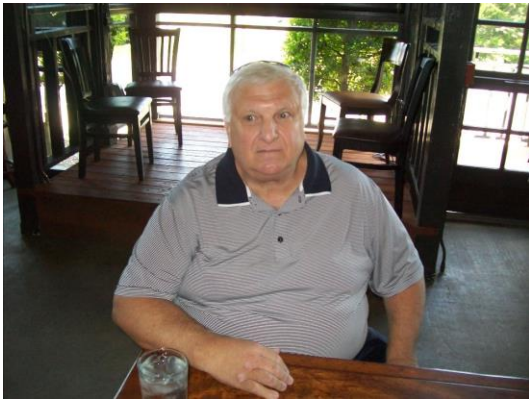
September Retirees' Lunch

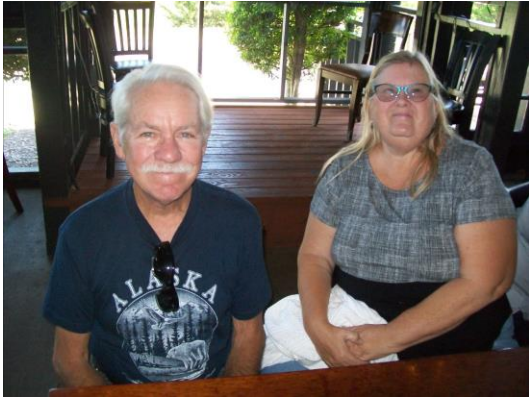
Hosted by Mike Kunst











Ladies Day Out

Hosted by Ruth Howard and Valerie Dyroff Zeisset

Had a beautiful day for our ladies of the St. Louis Corvette Club annual outing. This year we changed it up a little and went to Eckert's Country Store & Farms in Belleville! I think a great time was had by all! There is nothing more fun than a group of ladies pulling up in Corvettes and watching the look on some of these guys faces! Hell one guy came over and had a detailed conversation with Laurie Grubb asking about her Z06! I think she could have sold it! 🤪

Thanks Valerie Dyroff Zeisset for cochairing this event with me! Thanks to all the ladies that participated.







Ice Cream at Fritz's

Sponsored by Peggy Craig Bradley









Special Announcements

Jerry and Pam Schmidt

Jerry and Pam Schmidt were married on September 17. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Schmidt!



Articles

The St. Louis Corvette Club Historical Society Column

By Ron Hagenow

History Committee: Ron Hagenow, Marty Dooley, Mike Price and
Peggy Craig Bradley

With election of officers coming up shortly, we thought we would use this column to look back at those officers who have led the club to where it is today. You will notice that some folks have held several positions throughout the years. And some officers have held their position for multiple years. Yes, if you are an officer it may take up a little more of your time but it is also very rewarding. If you are a newer member, please consider holding an office. It is a great way to meet everyone and provide fresh ideas. So without further ado, here are the club officers starting with this year back to the original founding officers in 2004 ...

President: Jim Givens, Don Pickles, Ray Queen, Mike Price, Ann Brown Sedovic, Ruth Howard, Kevin Bayliss, Marty Dooley, Randy Howard, Theresa Luebcke, Bill Dotson, Ron Hagenow, Rick Frierdich, Marty Dooley and Ron Huch.

Vice President: Karen Price, Rick Doerr, Mike Grubb, Carl Ballinger, Mike Price, Larry Akins, Mike Zlatic, Charlie Miget, Jeff Craig, Ron Hagenow, Bill Dotson, Rick Frierdich and Marty Dooley.

Secretary: Angie Midkiff, Bev Givens, Ron Hagenow, Sherri Marlo, Ron

Hagenow, Erin Duke, Karen Price, Mary Ann Hagenow, Judy Barron, Jane Ehrhard, Mary Ann Hagenow, Karen Price and June Huch.

Treasurer: Patty Kusky, Marcia Sheer, Anne Pickles, Don Pickles, Bob Kusky, Rich Doerr, Ann Brown Sedovic, Sara Gibson, Jerry Fain and Fran Wienstroer.

Membership: Judy Giovanoni, Mike Kunst, Pat Moore, Judy Giovanoni, Tom Marlo, Jan Murray, Ron Hagenow, Ruth Howard, Angie Bradford, Patty Craig, Jackie Miget, Peggy Craig and Judy Lee.

Sergeant at Arms: Jack Braznell, Mike Kirby, Tom Marlo, Michelle Finn, Gary Duke, Michelle Paillou, Don Pickles, Dave Horstmeyer, Carl Ballinger, Jean DuPont, Roger Ruengert, Gary Murray, Judy Dooley and Karen Mericle.

And now for some October Pictures:



From one of our favorite events, in 2009 Sharon (Darla) probably telling a dirty joke at Eureka Springs.



From our car show/chili cook off in 2011, these were the winners of the car show.



From Josephine's Tea Room Run in 2014, it looks like everyone enjoyed the drive and food.



Club members and their cars that attended the Point Labbadie Winery run in 2020.

Here are two early dash plaques given out from car shows sponsored by the club early in our existence. Both are compliments of Marty Dooley.

St. Louis Corvette Club

**Gateway
To
Fun**



Midwest Region NCCC

**CORVETTES
FOR THE CURE
CAR SHOW**

AUGUST 15, 2004

ST. LOUIS CORVETTE CLUB

**3RD ANNUAL
CAR SHOW**

**MAY 6
2006**



SPONSOR: ROUTE 66 CHEVROLET

What We Do Matters!

By Rick Friedich

It had been a busy weekend. Friday we had spent the day sightseeing with company from California. We got a late start and headed east on 94 then up into Alton and on up to Grafton to the Loading Dock for lunch. Took the ski-lift up to Aerie Resort to relax and enjoy the scenery. Headed back into Missouri on the ferry and met the rest of the family for dinner at a Mexican restaurant in St. Peters.

Saturday the entire family came together to celebrate a 35th wedding anniversary complete with lobster flown in that day from Maine. There were 15 adults and 4 kids ages 4 and under.

Sunday was to be a day to rest. Pat and I decided to have brunch at Bob Evans in South County and spend the afternoon at a winery in Kimmswick. Since we'd be outside, I opted to wear my Army Veteran cap.

The restaurant wasn't very crowded but one couple was prominent as they were about our age, but he was on an electrical mobility scooter. They were just about finished with their meal. As the couple was leaving, they paused at our table. "Thank you for your service," the man said. I responded, "You're welcome; I appreciate that." He asked me about the time I had served and where I had been stationed. He talked about how he had served in Vietnam and had been injured in combat. I thanked him for his serving and the sacrifice he had endured on behalf of our nation.

He talked of the many long months spent in Spinal Cord Injury Units at VA and

Military hospitals across the world. He said when he was told that his physical condition was his “new normal” he had a decision to make. He could sit around and be angry or he could find a job where he could, maybe, help people deal with their problems. He chose the latter; he got a job with the government helping patients in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at JB seek out any benefits they are eligible to receive.

I said, “I need to tell you; I think you’ll like this. We are members of a car club – it’s a Corvette club. Since 2004 the club has participated in the Veterans Day Parade in downtown St. Louis. We have quite a few veterans in the group. But the priority on our calendar is that we also maintain a garden behind Bldg 52 at the VA Hospital in JB.”

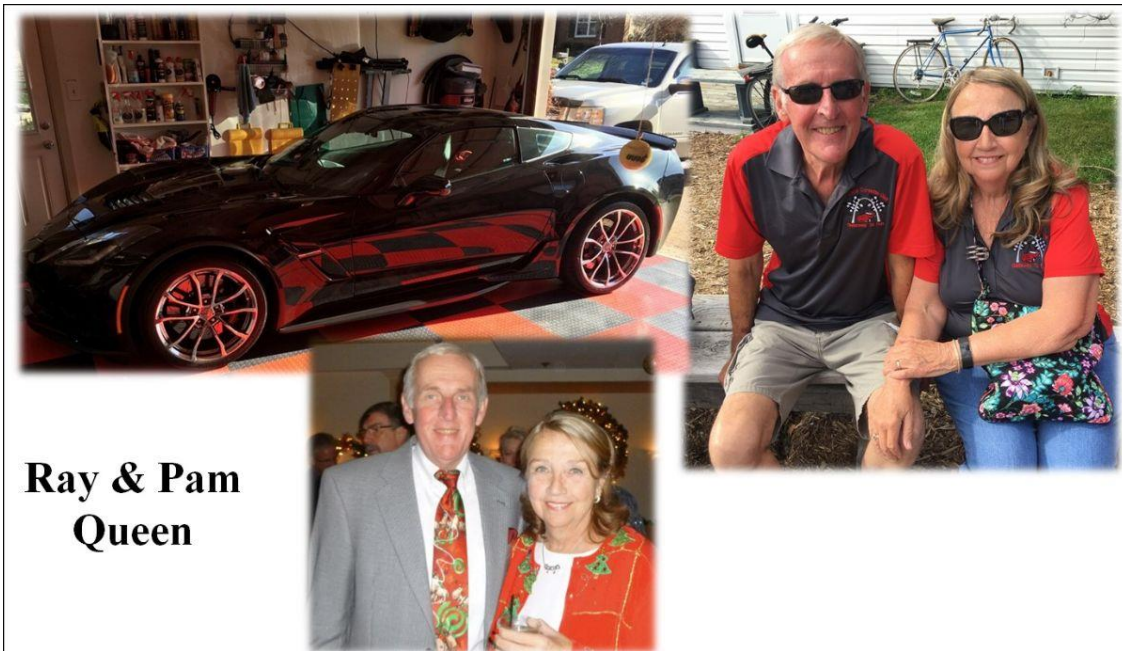
The man and his wife suddenly had huge smiles on their faces. “I know that garden,” he said. “It’s beautiful!”

He and I shook hands and the couple said goodbye and left.

So about 10 minutes later we were ready to go so I asked the waitress for the check. She returned in a few minutes and advised me that the meal is free today. “The couple who was sitting at that table over there paid it and made me promise not to tell you until after they left.”

Featured STLCC Members and Their Corvette

Ray and Pam Queen



**Ray & Pam
Queen**

Managing Editor
Columnist
Senior Photo Journalist
Photo Journalist
Aerial Photo Journalist
Archive Specialist
Publisher

Kathy Mueller
Ron Hagenow
Terry Mueller
Ruth Howard
Tom Marlo
Steve Kirby
Mike Kunst

Many Thanks To Our Sponsor

Mark Gerecke 636-227-5333

Eric DeBruin 636-227-5333



“ WHERE CUSTOMERS ARE FIRST
AND CARS ARE SECOND TO NONE ”



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Wildwood, MO 63038

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