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Gate City Corvette Club

New Hampshire

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DEC 2024/JAN 2025

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Happy Holidays!



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Hello Members,

This is such a busy time of the year! Thanksgiving is in the rearview and we're officially into the festive holiday season when we enjoy many cherished traditions and celebrations with family and friends. Our next club get-together is the annual Holiday Party on January 25th.

In the meantime, we love hearing from you whether you spend the next few months in a warmer climate or prefer to tough it out here in New England. Please consider joining the club's new Facebook page as an additional way to keep in touch.

By now I suspect most of the Corvettes have been put away except for a few die-hards who drive their cars during the frosty weather. I still see C8s on the road. Maybe the mid-engines make good winter cars?

Kevin has asked for your input as he plans events for next year. Please feel free to contact him with your ideas. We had an outstanding 2024 and with your active involvement we hope to have an even better 2025!

Wishing you and your family a delightful holiday season!

All the best,
David



The purpose of Gate City Corvette Club is to make being a Corvette owner more fun. Our club meets the second Friday of the month at Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House, 393 State Rte. 101, Bedford, New Hampshire. Looking forward to seeing you there!

GCCC ACTIVITIES

It's the week before Thanksgiving as I write this article and I've asked myself several times, where did 2024 go? But with the Thanksgiving turkey in the frig, the dinner invitations sent, Christmas shopping underway and we've started bringing out our Christmas trimmings, reality is setting in... CHS is fast approaching (Corvette Hibernation Syndrome). But the good news, with the weather remaining unseasonably warm and the roads free of sand and salt, we haven't put our Corvettes to bed just yet. Hopefully you haven't either.

Looking over the membership survey results this week (thank you Allie for pulling it together) tells me the vast majority of our members really enjoyed our 2024 season! And we want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to complete the survey which will go a long way helping us plan an exciting 2025 season! I'd love to hear from you with any suggestions or ideas on what you'd like to see or do next year. I have to believe many of you have favorite rides or destinations you've traveled to/visited over the years, so why not share them with me so we can all enjoy? Please feel free to contact me by email, text, phone or in-person with those suggestions.

As I reflect on GCCC's 2024 season, there was so much that we as a club experienced and accomplished together. There were several exciting changes and improvements; we traveled many miles and explored new destinations together and had the pleasure of welcoming several new members/new friends to the club. Our love of the greatest American sports car is what brought us together as GCCC, but it's our old friends as well as new friends we've made along the way that is the glue that keeps us together.

Don't forget there is no regular meeting in December and January. Our next gathering is Saturday January 25, 2025 for our annual Holiday Party. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone then!

And finally, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May you and your family have a holiday season that is full of wonderful surprises, treats, nonstop laughter and good health.



Cheers,
Kevin LeBlond

Life is short, enjoy the ride!



November
Meeting
&
Pizza Party

Pictures provided
by
Mike & Terri

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE



BREAKING NEWS: Not only do we have a new interactive, user-friendly Facebook page called: "Gate City Corvette Club +" but, we've also updated our website. Over the next few weeks and months, we will be posting upcoming events, photos from recent & past events, GCCC news and anything else newsworthy. We're also hoping that a freshened-up website will inspire non-affiliated Corvette owners looking for a club to join, to contact our Membership Director Tom Stewart at thomas_stewart@comcast.net

Our new Facebook page Gate City Corvette Club +

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8068419389882008>

Come check out our updated Gate City Corvette Club Webpage

<https://gatecitycorvetteclub.com/>

Georgia LeBlond



GATE CITY CORVETTE CLUB

Holiday Party

Saturday January 25, 2025

Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House
393 Route 101
Bedford, New Hampshire

6:00 – 11:00 pm

Holiday Dinner in the Carriage House

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Cash Bar, Raffles & Prizes, Fun Yankee Swap "Joke" Gifts
(wrapped and labeled man, woman or either under \$25.00)

RSVP by January 4th to Kevin LeBlond
kgvert1@outlook.com

Please submit payment by January 4, 2025

Mail to: Dean Gagne
11 Blackbird Drive
Bedford, NH, 03110

Hope to see you there!!

President: November 8th was our annual pizza party. Dinner also included salad and delicious cake. David began the business portion of the evening with officer reports followed by the election of Board of Directors.

Membership Director: Tom recognized our newest members John and Beth, 2002 Millenium Yellow convertible, and Peter and Angela, '71 blue C3.

Secretary: Allie distributed a survey for members to complete. The information gathered from the survey will help with activity planning for next year. Allie will compile the results and send to members.



Treasurer: Dean presented the treasurer's report. He gave an update on the status of the club's charitable donations. The club will purchase toys and clothing for several local children. Heather will coordinate a fun evening of shopping at the Walmart in Amherst in December. Please watch for her email with further info. She will be asking for volunteers to help with shopping.

Vice President/Activities Director: Kevin talked about the Annual Holiday Party planned for Saturday, January 25th at Murphy's Taproom Carriage House. Please RSVP to Kevin and send payment to Dean by January 4th. We will have a lively Yankee Swap of "joke" gifts at the party. Participation in the Swap is optional. (Please refer to flyer on previous page for details.) Because our February meeting falls on Valentine's Day, the meeting will be moved up a week to Friday, February 7, 2025. There will be no meeting in December. Also, Kevin announced that plans are in the works for a special party to celebrate GCCC's 50th anniversary. The party is planned for Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the Bedford Village Inn, Bedford, New Hampshire. Please save the date!

NCM Ambassador: Larry mentioned this time of year is generally quiet for the National Corvette Museum. He plans to attend the Bash in April. Please let him know if you become a member or renew a membership as he gets credits to maintain his ambassadorship. He gave a reminder that the Museum offers Corvette insurance, and premiums are often less than other insurers.

The election of Board of Directors for 2025 was held. Because there was just one candidate running for each office, Allie cast one vote for all on behalf of the membership. Officers are as follows: David Osgood, President; Kevin LeBlond, Vice President/Activities Director; Dean Gagne, Treasurer; Allie DeCampo, Secretary; Tom Stewart, Membership Director; Norm Wood, Officer at Large.

Jim Ecke was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Paul Guimond was the winner of the member raffle. David adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Allie

Become a member of Gate City Corvette Club!

For Membership Information please visit our website:

<http://www.gatecitycorvetteclub.com/>

For more information or if you would like to join, please contact:

Tom Stewart, Membership Director

(617) 947-9254 or email thomas_stewart@comcast.net

Join us in celebrating December/January birthdays!



<i>Paul Keefe</i>	<i>12/01</i>	<i>Jim Gorman</i>	<i>12/18</i>
<i>Mike Klyop</i>	<i>12/02</i>	<i>Mike Yensz</i>	<i>12/19</i>
<i>Bob DiMeo</i>	<i>12/04</i>	<i>Sharon White</i>	<i>01/09</i>
<i>Lee Isdell</i>	<i>12/07</i>	<i>Kevin LeBlond</i>	<i>01/09</i>
<i>Georgia LeBlond</i>	<i>12/12</i>	<i>Ruth Wintle</i>	<i>01/18</i>
<i>Sandy Bourgeois</i>	<i>12/17</i>	<i>Allie DeCampo</i>	<i>01/29</i>
<i>David Osgood</i>	<i>12/17</i>		

If you do not see your birthday on the list and wish to be included, please send your date of birth (month and day) to Tom Stewart at the phone number or email address above.

RON FELLOWS PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Spring Mountain Resort with Side Trip to Las Vegas

By Larry Goelz

In November of 2023, Norm Wood and I placed our orders for new 2023 Corvette Stingrays. In February of 2024, our cars arrived about 1 week apart. As with all new Corvettes, Chevrolet covers two thirds the cost for the Spring Mountain Corvette Owners School plus one night stay in an on-site condo. We paid the remaining one third cost of the course, the extra night in the condo, dinners, air fare, rental car, and all expenses when staying in Las Vegas.

Shortly after Norm and I took delivery of our cars and during the time we were installing aftermarket items, we made plans to sign up for the driving course. We decided to make it a vacation trip with our wives and spend several days in Las Vegas. Our school was scheduled for 21/22 October 2024. Norm worked with our travel agent and booked flights on Jet Blue, a stay at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, and a rental vehicle. Our schedule had us flying out to Las Vegas on Sunday 20 October.

When the day arrived, Ingrid and I arose in the wee hours of the morning, assured we had everything we needed packed in the car. We drove to Norm and Sue's home where their son Matt was waiting to take the four of us to the airport in Boston. Our flight departed at 9:00 am and landed in Las Vegas at noon, PST. We retrieved our luggage, took a shuttle to the rental car building, picked up our car, put Spring Mountain in Waze and headed west.

We arrived at Spring Mountain around 2:30 pm and were told we couldn't register until 3:00. In the meantime, we went to the security building and got our wristbands. We then returned to registration, unloaded our luggage at the condos, unpacked, and drove around the area to locate the buildings we would be going to the next two days. As we drove around the complex, it was impressive to see all the Corvettes (over 2000) and the Cadillac CT5-V's, as well as the membership garages and the number of condos on the site.



Figure 1 Some of the on-site condos

Next the four of us went to the club house where we had several libations. We reviewed a listing of area restaurants and decided to go to the Pahrump Nugget Casino and Hotel. We enjoyed their dinner selections, passed up the casino offerings, bumped into a couple who were also registered for the course, and then headed back to Spring Mountain.

Monday morning came early as we needed to be in class by 7:45 am. We rushed to get ready and catch breakfast. We made it on time and joined our classmates for introductions followed by lectures. Of note, Rick Malone, the driving school's manager of instructors, was in this position when I first went to Spring Mountain for a professional driving school back in 2009.



Figure 2 Cars being staged for the day's usage



Figure 3 Line up of the cars completed

At class Norm and I were given an overview of the track layout and then put into groups of 4 or 5 students. After the lesson we headed outside and selected our ride. As it turned out I went through 3 cars – car failures, not mine! Norm chose a gray one and I selected a white one. (No Torch Red was to be had in our group of cars.)

Over the two days we would practice on the track, looking ahead to where we wanted to go on a figure 8 layout through the windshield and then with the windshield covered, and also running an autocross layout. We learned how to use ABS braking on a skid pad, practiced launch control 4 times, and of course, had a number of runs on the 1.5 mile track each day which were great.

On Monday, Sue and Ingrid decided to explore the area. They found Red Rock Canyon, and then headed to Death Valley National Park which was not too far away in California. They made several stops at local shops then returned to Spring Mountain.

After our class was over for the day, Norm and I hiked to the condos and reunited with Sue and Ingrid. We then drove to the club house for refreshments and to discuss the day's events. We decided to have dinner at the club house where we all enjoyed pizza – not very creative but it worked.



Figure 4 Heading for California and Death Valley

On Tuesday, Norm and I had breakfast at the club house and then went to classroom and track sessions. At the end of the sessions, we had graduation and a group picture. We returned to the condo where we finished packing the car and headed out for Las Vegas, about one hour's drive away.



Figure 5 Graduation from Spring Mountain

We arrived in Las Vegas around 5:30 pm, and after some directional errors we located the Golden Nugget on the old Las Vegas strip. After getting settled, we decided to find someplace for dinner. We strolled around the hotel and found that all of the restaurants strongly suggested reservations, so we headed out to see what was offered.

On the Strip we were confronted with a myriad of street performers, street vendors, hotels, casinos, and a fair collection of riffraff. As I had not been on the old strip (except maybe in 1990) I was amazed at the covered overhead. It is a half mile in length, 90 feet wide, and provides a great lightshow by Vista Vision from the LED canopy. There is also a zip line overhead with 4 cables allowing 4 zippers to run at the same time.



Figure 6 View of Fremont Street

In the end we stopped for dinner at Whiskey Licker on Fremont Street. It is the only rotating bar in Las Vegas and from the second level you can people watch. The server spilled beer on Sue! As an apology management gave Sue two Whiskey Licker T-shirts. After dinner we headed back to the hotel and again surveyed the activities on the street.



Figure 7 Our Hotel on the old strip



Figure 8 View of Fremont



Figure 9 Starting point for the Zip

On Wednesday morning we got coffee at Starbucks then decided to tour Red Rock Canyon which is west of Las Vegas. The run through Red Rock Canyon provided some amazing sights and vistas. After touring the canyon area, we stopped at the Red Rock Hotel and Cosino for lunch, then headed back to the hotel.



Figure 10 Stop along the tour of Red Rock Canyon



Figure 11 Even in this desolate area, a flower grows



Figure 12 View of Red Rock Canyon



Figure 13 Another view of Red Rock Canyon

We arrived back at the hotel around 4:00 pm and then proceeded to make dinner reservations. We chose Vic & Anthony's Steakhouse located in our hotel. At the restaurant, we were promptly shown to our table. Looking at the surroundings, it was apparent we were in for a fine dining experience. It turned out to be excellent, and when the bill came it was obvious we had a fine dining experience!



Figure 14 Inside Vic & Anthony's



Figure 15 Another view of Vic & Anthony's

Thursday morning, we decided to head out for a Dunkin' experience and have coffee and muffins. Strolling down Freemont Street we located one. As we were enjoying our breakfast, Sue noticed something more delectable at Craft Kitchen across from Dunkin's. Made us wish we had looked a little further afield. After breakfast we decided to go to the Strip and see what was happening. At the Bellagio Hotel and Casino, we were able to park for free and went into the hotel to look at their amazing seasonal gardens. Quite impressive!



Figure 16 Gardens at Bellagio



Figure 17 Wandering in the gardens



Figure 18 Gardens at Bellagio

After viewing the gardens, we toured the hotel's other attractions. As we were walking over to the Paris Las Vegas Hotel, we noticed the city was putting in temporary structures for the upcoming Formula 1 Race at the end of November. The Paris Las Vegas is another great hotel to explore and has various replicas of Paris landmarks including the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, the Paris Opera House, and the Musee d'Orsay. As the Paris is directly connected to the Horseshoe Las Vegas Hotel, we decided to continue our wanderings. We decided to have pizza at one of the food stalls and afterwards headed back to the Golden Nugget.

We walked around the Golden Nugget and then onto Freemont Street looking to make reservations for that evening's dinner. After wandering for quite some time, we decided to go back to the hotel and book at one of the restaurants. We finally decided on the Saltgrass Steak House and Saloon. Sue and Ingrid went to their rooms to rest; Norm and I went to Freemont Street for cocktails and watch the happenings from Whiskey Licker's second floor balcony. Later, the wives joined us and soon it was time to head back to the hotel. We had dinner at Saltgrass and enjoyed the food and atmosphere. After dinner we returned to our rooms to begin packing and then retire.

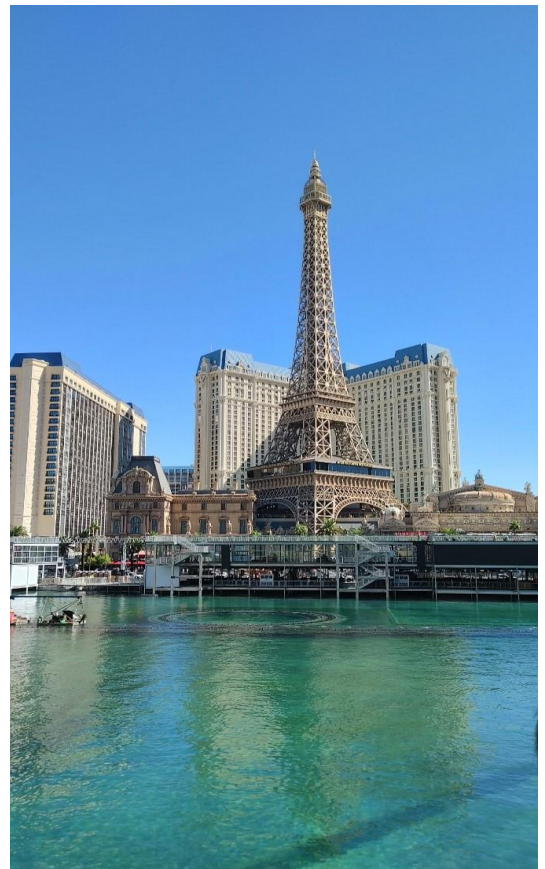


Figure 19 Paris Las Vegas

Friday morning, we had delicious pastries and coffee at Craft Kitchen, then went back to the hotel to finish packing. We returned the rental car and caught a shuttle to the airport. We arrived in Boston and located Matt who was kind enough to drive us to New Hampshire. It was around 10:30 pm when we arrived at our home in New Boston. Overall, what a great trip!

That Poor Vette



This month's poor Vette is a blue E-ray coupe not having a good day at the Tail of the Dragon. This stretch on US 129 at Deal's Gap is an amazing driving road many of us in the club have enjoyed spirited runs on. Sadly... if you don't remember that "the lines are lava" and start pushing beyond your driving level... it's all too easy to end up off the road. The good news is that the car didn't slide further down away from the road, so would have been an easier recovery. No report on the driver, but most likely just a bruised ego.

<https://www.corvetteblogger.com/2024/10/28/accident-c8-corvette-z06-goes-off-road-on-tail-of-the-dragon/>

TPV Contributed by Larry Shields



Ambassador's NCM Update

December 2024

As the GCCC Ambassador, I have goals to meet for the NCM. For me to meet the goals I need each of you to **let me know** if you attend a museum event, purchase memberships, purchase raffle tickets, purchase bricks/tiles/bench, or make donations to the museum.

Artifact of the Month

Each month the NCM Curatorial staff selects an artifact from their collection that is connected to a significant moment in Corvette history and shares its story with you.

For the current story, go to:

Jim Lovell Corvette and Apollo Program

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/>.

Astronaut Jim Lovell flew on four missions in the Gemini and Apollo programs. One of Lovell's former Corvettes, a silver 1968, is on display at the National Corvette Museum alongside artifacts from his storied astronaut career.



Museum Transitions to Fall and Winter Hours

Beginning Friday, November 1, the Museum will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm CT and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CT. These extended hours will continue through Tuesday, December 31.



Expanded Membership Benefits

We're excited to announce that access to the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association® has expanded to all Members of the National Corvette Museum. The North American Reciprocal Museum Association® network features 1,369 museums, galleries, botanical gardens, and more. Your membership includes reciprocal benefits like free admission. Learn more and find participating institutions on the NARM website.

NCM Special Exhibits:

LUSTER: Realism and Hyperrealism in Contemporary Automobile and Motorcycle Painting

Closing Soon! Undergoing a major renovation to transform the space into an art gallery, Luster will take residency in the Museum's limited engagement gallery through the end of 2024. Art will be juxtaposed against Corvettes, motorcycles and other automotive icons that served as the inspiration for the work, including a 1937 Cord 812 on loan from the Cord Dusenbergs Automobile Museum in Auburn, IN.



**Welcome Andy Marcum,
Director of Accounting**

An American Love Affair:
70 Years of Corvette is *NOW OPEN!*



Marcom's leadership role will oversee and manage all aspects of the organization's financial operations. This includes financial oversight of the National Corvette Museum, NCM Motorsports Park, and NCM Insurance, with responsibilities spanning strategic budgeting, forecasting, and revenue management.

Motorsports Park News:

The NCM Motorsports Park is thrilled to announce the addition of another GM Performance car to its fleet as the Cadillac CT5- V Blackwing joins the lineup of Camaro and Corvette Driving Experiences!

DRIVE A NEW Z06 and Z06 Fast Pack! The Motorsports Park is the only commercialized track in the nation to offer consumer facing-driving experiences in the much-anticipated new Z06 Corvette. Test the power and performance of this amazing vehicle by signing up for the Drive a Z06 offering by driving 4 laps (above highway speeds) in a lead/follow format around the 3.2-mile 23 turn road course plus “Zero to Sixty” launch and a Hot Lap driven by an Motor Sports Park pro drive. For the “Z06 Fast Pack” you will be driving (4) laps (above highway speeds) in a lead/follow format around the 3.2 mile, 23 turn road course, plus “Zero to Sixty” launch, and a Hot Lap driven by the MSP professional.

For more information please visit: <https://www.motorsportspark.org/drive-a-z06/>

To register for track experiences: <https://book.peek.com/s/bdf5867b-553c-4f63-af19-cdc4abedc880/zg2mw>.

There are many other track experience packages offered. Go to: <https://www.motorsportspark.org/> for complete information on track offerings.



NCM Events Update:

- MiM Daytona Rolex 24 presented by Michelin @ Daytona International Speedway Jan 22
- 28th Annual Michelin NCM Bash @ National Corvette Museum Apr 24 – Apr 26
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin @ Biltmore Estate Apr 27 – Apr 30
- MiM Branson Experience Jun 24 – Jun 28
- MiM Colorado Springs Jul 13 – Jul 17
- 2025 National Corvette Museum 31st Anniversary @ National Corvette Museum Aug 28 – Aug 30
- 2025 MiM National Parks Tour Sep 21– Sep 27

NCM Raffle Purchase online or print order form and mail in. Current Corvettes being raffled:



2025 Riptide Blue E-Ray Convertible
Price: \$300 Tickets 1994
Drawing: January 16, 2025



2025 Arctic White Coupe
Price: \$20 Tickets: Unlimited
Drawing: April 26, 2025

To learn more visit: <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org/index.cfm>

NCM Membership:

The museum exists to support Corvette Enthusiasts worldwide and memberships are a large part of its sources of revenue. If you are a member, remember to renew it, if you are not a member, please consider purchasing one of the membership levels.

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/support/membership/>

An individual membership is \$65.00 annually and provides you with the following NCM benefits:

- Membership card
- NCM member lapel pin
- Free admission to members
- Discount on NCM sponsored events
- Annual subscription to America's Sports Car
- 10% discount on merchandise from the Corvette Store and Catalog
- 10% off NCM Motorsports Park Driving Club initiation fee

- Discount on insurance from NCM Insurance Agency
- Discounts on car rentals and hotels
- 20% discount on CARFAX reports
- \$10 off membership to Air Evac/AirMedCare Network
- Access to Members Only section of website, including Monthly Corvette Calendar Wallpaper and Special Videos

Other membership levels include:

Family \$100.00/year, Life member \$1953.00, Senior member (over 65) \$750.00 20 years

For questions about the Digital Membership Card, contact Member Relations Specialist, by calling 270-467-8833. Your member pin and decal can be picked up on your next visit!

DOWNLOAD YOUR DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

<https://museum.inficaresoft.com/wallet/link/TmFOaW9uYWwgQ29ydmV0dGUgTXVzZXVt>



NCM Insurance: NCM Insurance is an agent for American Modern Insurance Group, Haggerty, and Open Track and is licensed in all 50 states, covering any collector car (make or model) that is considered a collector car. Also available is insurance for HPDE and open track day, car club liability coverage, and boat/yacht/watercraft.

Get Your Car Club Liability Policies: We can now write General Liability and Directors and Officers coverage (for any non-profit organization) through Hagerty and Traveler's.

For more information go to: www.ncminsurance.com

"The mission of the National Corvette Museum is to celebrate the Corvette's invention and preserve the legendary automobile's past, present, and future. The museum will serve as an educational and research model for all to enjoy."

New England Caravan to the NCM 2024

By Larry Goelz

After 5 years of planning, putting on 5 Meet and Greet events, making the annual run of our caravan route to the National Corvette Museum, and much more... the day, 20 August 2024, to start this journey finally arrived. Participants from our New England Caravan region would gather in Gettysburg, PA where the 2024 New England Caravan would begin. Our total time for this caravan journey was 15 days, which provided us with a challenge for packing our new 2024 Stingray. Somehow, we managed to pack enough clothing to last for the entire trip without resorting to a trip to a laundromat.



Figure 2 The Frunk is Full!



Figure 2 The Trunk is Full

Connecting with Kevin LeBlond (NH/VT State Leader) prior to our departure day, we discussed a route to Gettysburg, and decided to minimize the time spent on Interstate highways and enjoy back roads to Scranton, PA which would be our first destination on the way to Gettysburg. This route would take us across NH to VT and on to NY state. We would end up taking short runs on I-87, then I-84 to I-81 into Scranton.

On departure day, our group met at an Irving Station in Milford, NH, and after a pit stop and taking on gas we headed out for Scranton PA with Kevin and Georgia leading the group and Ingrid and I taking up the rear. The group included Peter Bovio, Bob and Carol DiMeo, Jerry Ellner and grandson Danny, and Dave and Linda Sutherland.



Figure 3 The Group at a pit stop in VT.

We headed west on Rt 101, then onto Rt. 9, with a short time on I-91, then again on Rt. 9 through VT, a short time on Rt. 279 and again west on secondary roads where we stopped at Rike Lee's restaurant for lunch. After lunch we continued through NY state to I-84 then I-81 into Scranton, PA. where we stayed at the Hampton Inn in Moosic, PA. All enjoyed dinner at the Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar where Ed and Sandy Bourgeois joined us.



Figure 4 Dinner at Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine

On Wednesday we had a quick coffee at the hotel, then headed out on I-81 heading for Gettysburg with Ingrid and I in the lead and Kevin and Georgia bringing up the rear. We took Exit 52 and stopped for a late breakfast/early lunch at the Middlesex Diner in Carlisle, PA. Good diner food, good service and easy to find. Back on the road we took exit 47B which put us on some great back roads (Rt. 34, Rt.94, Rt. 15) to Gettysburg. We wended our way through the small towns and hundreds of acres of apple trees. The road providing us with a fun time and great views. We arrived at Gettysburg early in the afternoon and checked into the Wyndham Hotel.



Figure 5 Arriving at the Wyndham Hotel



Figure 6 Unloading at the Wyndham Hotel

Suggested dinner spots for Caravan early arrivals were the Quaker Steak and Lub, a diner in York, PA, a pizza party at the Adams County Winery in Ortanna, PA, and, if these were not interesting, folks could find other restaurants in the area. I was tasked with leading those who signed up for the pizza party to the winery. This is a very good winery. The grounds are well landscaped including several perennial gardens and a pavilion where we held the pizza party. The winery has an outdoor pizza oven which produced our pizzas (4 different selections) and a bar next to the pavilion where there were offerings of the wine, beer, and other refreshments. We had about 70 folks attending. Back at the hotel many folks went to the lounge to connect with others arriving at the hotel. Barry and Deb Sheperd (who had to cancel going on the Caravan) arrived and all were very glad to see them.

On Thursday, we had breakfast at the hotel. We then met up with Randy Flock to help unload his truck (Judy brought their 2023 Stingray), and set up the Stars and Stripes Conference Room for attendees to pick up their NE Caravan and NCM registration materials and sign several Limitations of Liability

Photo Right: Figure 7 Pizza Buffet at Adams County



forms. We also set up a display of 2024 NE Caravan clothing for purchase.

Dinner for those who signed up was at the Mason Dixon Distillery where about 110 folks were in attendance. It was a buffet dinner with a cash bar (of course) and the food was very good. Afterwards we went back to the hotel and joined others in the lounge.

Friday, we had breakfast in the hotel, then I proceeded to get ready to lead participants on a cruise to Barry's Car Barn in Intercourse, PA. Afterwards we caravanned to Miller's Smorgasbord in Ronks, PA. The buffet was very good, offered many choices, and had a large variety of dessert selections. Of interest was the fact that when our group of 100 was assembled and ready to be seated, the hostess told us we had only 90 minutes to eat and then leave!



Figure 8 Barry's Car Barn

We returned to the hotel where members of the leadership team handed out registration bags and handled sales of Caravan clothing.

Friday evening, we had 2 choices for dining destinations. One was the Dobson House (we had buses to take the diners to/from this restaurant as its parking was minimal), and the second was the Inn at Herr Ridge. Ingrid and I led the Herr Ridge group to the restaurant. At our table was a couple from Vermont and, in our conversation, we learned they had purchased their C7 from friends of ours in Vermont. Little

did we know the C7 was one of the Corvettes stolen in Memphis, TN after the Caravan! We finished dinner, returned to the hotel, and joined the gathering in the lounge.

Saturday morning we again had breakfast at the hotel. Many folks had taken advantage of the 1-day pass to Corvettes of Carlisle, and Randy led the group to the fairgrounds. I did some cleaning on the car (mainly glass), organized our "stuff" as we would be heading out the next day. In the morning, I received a call from an old club member, Dan Fiedler, who suggested we meet him at the Carlisle Fair Grounds for coffee. I said we didn't have the time but thanked him for connecting.

For lunch we joined Kevin and Georgia at La Bell Italia in Gettysburg. Very good food. From the restaurant we went and filled our gas tanks then went back to the hotel to staff the registration room. In the evening, we had the kick-off Banquet which all enjoyed. At the banquet we raffled off room credits and tour passes to the Hendrick private collection.

On Sunday morning many attended the Breakfast Buffet we had planned, then all began to depart for Roanoke, VA. Our next stop was Shenandoah Caverns for a tour. We had arranged for lunch at White Lavender Farm & Purple Wolf Vineyard in Harrisonburg, VA, or Devils Backbone Brewing Company in Lexington, VA. The route for this leg of the journey took folks down I-81 then getting on the Bluegrass Parkway to Roanoke, VA. Kevin, Georgia, Ingrid and I headed out and bypassed the Blue Ridge Parkway (we ran it at the end of April of this year) and headed directly to the Hotel Roanoke. As we approached Roanoke, we stopped for gas then continued on to the hotel.



Figure 9 Hotel Roanoke



Figure 10 Leaders Parked in the Hotel Roanoke

Hotel Roanoke has a circular drive and the hotel allowed the Caravan leaders to park their cars around the circle. After checking in and taking our luggage to the rooms, we went to the lounge, ordered libations, and rested while we watched more caravanners arrive. In the evening, we attended a banquet. The banquet buffet was well done and again we held a raffle for room credits and half hour slots for the Hendrick Private Collection tour. Unfortunately, a man from Rhode Island passed out and was taken to the emergency room. We later learned he was doing well. We also found out Larry and Heather Shields had a tire blow out. Larry was told the tire could not be patched and he would have to wait a day or so to get a new pair.

Monday morning, we had breakfast at the hotel, packed the cars, then headed out for the Embassy Suites in Concord, NC. While we were getting the cars organized to leave, a huge branch on a very large tree produced a loud cracking sound and started to drop, but did not fall completely to the ground. As we were looking at the branch, a couple walked beneath the tree. Just as they were several feet beyond the tree, the branch came crashing down to the ground causing the couple to scramble away unscathed. We arrived in Concord, NC around 11:45 AM, checked in at the Embassy Suites, then went over to the Hendrick facility. Tours of the Hendrick Private Collection began at noon. The tour for Ingrid and I was at 3:00 pm.



Figure 11 Embassy Suites Hotel



Figure 12 Waiting to enter the Hendrick

The tour of Hendrick's Private collection was amazing! We were unable to take pictures, as Rick Hendrick had a collection of cars, etc. belonging to his late son and did not want any of this collection posted on social media. After the tours all the participants assembled in the Hendrick Team Room where Jeff Gordon would meet with folks, talk about his career and answer questions. At the end, Randy and I presented him with a check made out to his charity. That evening we had a very good banquet buffet and then retired to our rooms for the evening.



Figure 13 Jeff and Larry backstage



Top: Figure 14 Our crew meets Jeff backstage



Bottom: Figure 15 Jeff addressing the Caravan group

Tuesday morning, we had breakfast at the hotel. Ingrid and I left early for Charlotte Motor Speedway to ensure we knew where our participants would enter the track area and park in the infield, and also to locate the restroom facilities. After quite some time our caravan cars began to arrive. With the help of some of the Caravan leaders, we directed the cars to park in the inner track area for a group picture. The temperature was approaching 100 degrees and climbing.

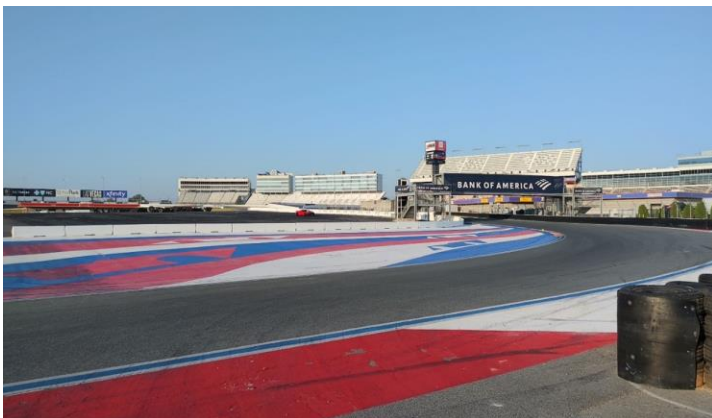


Figure 16 View of Charlotte Motor Speedway

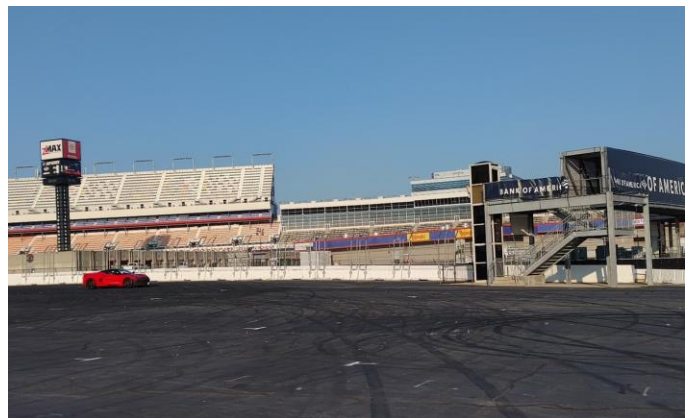


Figure 17 Charlotte Motor Speedway



Figure 18 2024 NE Caravan Group

When we were done with the pictures, track personnel arrived and explained how things were to be organized – all the cars were to line up in the pit area (3 long lines as we had 130 cars), then the lead track vehicle (a pickup truck – so much for “speed”) would take 10 cars at a time for 2 laps, then drop off the 10 cars and pick up another 10. After all cars had done the laps, they would do another 2 laps up to the time we had to leave the track.

Ingrid and I were about 6 groups from the end of the first session, so after we did the first 2 laps the lead vehicle led us back to the infield where most of the cars who finished the first laps were parked. As I walked around (104 degrees) many asked about doing the second run. As we had no communication with the track personnel, I said we were all supposed to get the second run but had to wait for the first run to be completed. Folks started to get impatient, some began to leave, then finally the pace vehicle arrived. The driver said that we would be doing the second run and asked me to line up 10 cars at a time and he would proceed to take each group out. Well, it was like herding cats to get the cars lined up (It was HOT!!) Some folks wanted to leave, some asked if their “buddy” could come up behind them (no way!) and one nice couple offered me a bottle of water. The last group to run consisted of 14 cars of which I was the last. We did the first lap with some cars not keeping up which was frustrating (I was not happy!) so coming into the 3rd turn I significantly increased my speed and passed the car in front of me who was “slow”. I hit 105 mph, then had to do a quick slow down as I caught up to the cars getting off the track. I apologized to the track official who smiled and said he would do the same. Nice to add another track to the list that we have been on. At this point I was hot and exhausted but still had to drive to Kingsport, TN.

We had about 6 cars going with us to Kingsport, so we first stopped for lunch at the local Hooters Restaurant before heading out with me in the lead. We arrived at the Meadow View Resort later in the afternoon, checked in and then collected in the lounge. As we did in May of this year at Meadow View, we enjoyed a serving (\$72.00) of Elmer T. Lee bourbon. In the evening, we again had an enjoyable banquet buffet and later met up at the hotel lounge.

On Wednesday morning we had breakfast at the hotel then I led a group of 6 cars on mostly non-interstate roads to Bowling Green, KY. Upon arrival at the Holiday Inn on Wilkinson Trace, we checked in and headed to the National Corvette Museum. I picked up my Caravan polo shirt, stopped at the museum store where I,

of course, made some purchases, then went outside to look over the 2025 Corvette ZR1. Quite a machine! Back at the hotel we enjoyed a wine tasting party in the hotel atrium. In the evening about 50 of us had dinner at Montana Grill which is always great. On Thursday we had breakfast at the hotel, then took a drive to Portland, TN where we had lunch – great menu and wonderful carrot cake.

In the evening was our “Cowboy Up” banquet, so in the afternoon Ingrid and I joined several of the Caravan leaders in the ballroom to set up and decorate the hall. The buffet dinner was very good and attendees found the band from Nashville outstanding as evidenced by the number of folks on the dance floor all evening. A raffle was held for free hotel rooms and a live auction was held as well as a silent auction. I want to thank Peter Bovio for transporting my western hat from NH to Bowling Green without a mishap.



Figure 19 In Cowboy-Up Uniform



Figure 20 At the Ball



Figure 21 More at the Ball

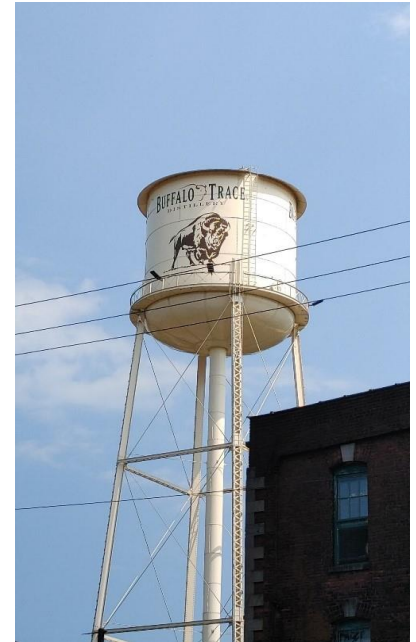


Figure 22 Mike and Eileen at the Ball



Figure 23 More of the Club at the Ball

Friday, after breakfast at the hotel, Kevin, Georgia, Ingrid and I went to the Buffalo Trace distillery and went on a tour. It was another hot day, about 100 degrees and the tour was mostly outside. When the tour was about half over we decided it was too hot to continue and went to the Buffalo Trace store to see what they had for bourbons. Leaving the distillery, we stopped for lunch at a Poor Boy's restaurant (my first time in one) then headed back to Bowling Green.



Top: Figure 24 At Bourbon Barrels

Right: Figure 25 At Buffalo Trace Distillery

In the evening the four of us went to the Mello Mushroom, a funky pizza house in Bowling Green. We had pizza, of course, and it was quite good.

Saturday, we had breakfast at the hotel. Kevin and Georgia had to be at the General Jackson in Nashville to hand out tickets to our caravan participants. Meanwhile, I cleaned up our car, reorganized the trunks as we would be packing up in the morning and heading north. That evening Ingrid and I were invited by Vettes of Coastal Maine to join them for dinner at the Montanna Grill restaurant. We had a great evening with the VOCM group and the food was great.

Sunday morning, we had breakfast in the hotel, then packed up the cars to depart for Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, WV. As we dispensed with lunch to get in earlier at the resort, upon arrival we went straight to Muskies Lounge where we had Margaritas and snacks. In the evening, we dined at the resort's Stillwater restaurant. We had been at this resort many times, made friends with several members of the staff, and looked forward to seeing them again as always. This trip most of the staff were gone – retired or left for other positions, except for the Beveridge manager. The only constant is change!

After breakfast, we departed for Scranton, PA. We checked in at the Hampton Inn and headed to the Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar for dinner. As usual, the food was very good as were the libations.

On Tuesday I led 3 cars to NH until Ingrid and I stopped at Ranumto's Brick Oven Pizza for lunch in Brattleboro, VT. The other 2 cars continued on to NH. After lunch we headed for New Boston, arriving tired but overall satisfied with the 2024 NE Caravan, driving over 3000 miles in 15 days. Several items to note... during the Caravan trip one car's transmission failed (the couple rented a Dodge Challenger and continued on

with the Caravan), several cars had tire failures, and after the Caravan, 2 cars went to Memphis, TN where their cars were stolen (one was found stripped), and a number of folks came down with colds.

We started out in April with less than 500 miles on our 2024 Stingray, and at the end of the Caravan we had put on almost 10,000 miles. What a ride!

As this was our third NCM Caravan being part of the leadership team, and considering we are not getting any younger, this will be our last. It was a great 15 years of involvement. We are grateful for the support provided by MacMulkin Chevrolet. Most of all, we are appreciative of Gate City Corvette Club's support and participation in each of the Caravans.

The End

NEW ENGLAND CARAVAN REUNION

Plans are well underway for a 2025 New England Caravan Reunion in September of next year. Registration for this event will open in January of 2025. We hope to see many of you there! The reunion will be held at the Attitash Grand Summit Hotel in Bartlett, NH.

Dash to Attitash



Grand Summit Hotel at Attitash in New Hampshire
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September 20, 2025

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The next article/ad submission date is **January 20, 2025**

Please help by sharing news about trips you've taken, shows you've attended, and suggestions for club activities, as well as technical advice, cleaning tips, or anything else that you feel would be of interest to our members. The club needs your input.

Reports, articles, notices, letters, photos and ads are to be received by the 20th of each month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter. Thank you for helping to make our newsletter interesting and informative.

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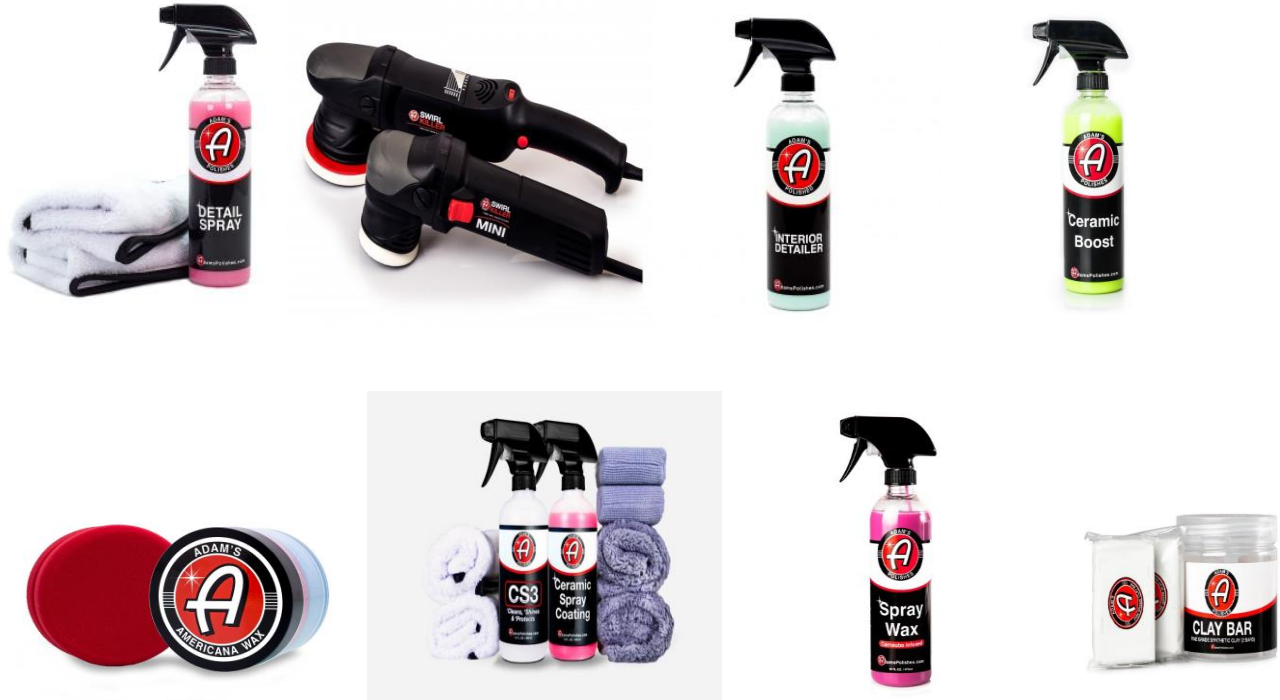


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