

The 'Glass Gazette

July 2009



Dealer Sponsor:
Koons Chevrolet
Tysons Corner, VA



Picnic 2009

Pics by Bruce Witkowski



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This year's Picnic was a success from Cheryl and my perspective, no driving and all the connivances of home. Laurie's article is at page 6 .

The folks working hard for you

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While the picnic is about good food, good friends and great weather, as always it is the workers who make it happen. Cheryl and I sincerely appreciate the stress free production organized by Laurie and supported with flair by so many of you. You all are welcome anytime, whether we are hosting a picnic or not

Membership Corner

We currently have
136 active members
1 honorary member and
7 prospective members.

Please congratulate the following New Members:

Michael Rathbun- 2004 Yellow Z06
Matt Hanson – 200 Yellow Coupe
Rob Taylor – 2007 Yellow Z06
Greg Hanson – 1993 Indy Pace Car Coupe
Ed Spall – 2005 Victory Red Convertible
Vincente Peraza – 1988 Red Coupe
John Provost – 1999 Pewter Hardtop
Vicki Hulick – 2006 LeMans Blue Convrtible
Noah Malgeri – 2008 Atomic Orange Z06
Mark Devine – 2008 Blue Coupe
Rich Olivo 2002 - Blue Coupe
Steven Netherly - 2006 Monterey Red Coupe

Please welcome our Prospective Members:

Gary Martin - 2009 Silver Z06
Ron Hillenbrand - 2007 Monterey Red Coupe
Rich Giannascoli - 2006 Blue Coupe
Will Trevillian – 2004 Grey Z06
Guy D. Hahs - 1975/2003 Silver/Red T-Top/Coupe
Teddy Bowen - 2005 Black Coupe
Craig Roberts - 1959/1965 Black/Silver Convertibles



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

July 2009



Here it is July already and there is almost no end to the ways you can get out and enjoy your Corvette. Starting off the month, Carol and I tossed a few bags in the ZO6 and headed down I-95 to the Greensboro NC area to spend the July 4th holiday weekend with her older daughter's family. It's hard to believe the first two grandkids are already 8 and 5! They're doing great and full of energy. One thing that made the holiday special was a neighborhood parade to the community pool about a half mile from the house. All the kids decorated their bikes, wagons, scooters, dogs, etc in red-white-&-blue, with lots of American flags to go around. Then at least a half dozen big "kids" (moms & dads) showed up in golf karts decked out in even more RWB. Not wanting to be left out, we fired up the Z, strapped on a couple of flags and took up a position at the end of the procession. After waiting at the start point for an anxious 10 minutes, the local fire department pumper truck showed up to lead the way and we were off. It was a very low speed event, first gear and loads of clutch, but it was a lot of fun and we had a great view taking it all in through the windshield. Spent an afternoon in the pool with the kids splashing around then watched a great local fireworks display.

Just a week later, HotterNHell was upon us and we found ourselves at Summit Point once again. This year we had 51 cars registered and raring to go. The grid tech process to check cars over before they are allowed out on the course went smooth as silk thanks to agile tech inspectors, lead by the likes of Sheikh and Cassidy. Great job guys! We had a few last minute changes because of some instructor no-shows but Miriam was able to swiftly sort it out as she always does, without missing a beat, even if she did put me in the right seat of a Mustang (???) for my first HPDE instructor gig. Following the mandatory classroom session, it was out to the cars and we were off and running. The day saw run groups for novice, intermediate, and advanced, as well as instructor track time. Cars included everything from a strong contingent of Corvettes, to Porsches, Mustangs, Bimmers, at least one Miata, a couple of old Cougars, a few Lotus, and one custom car that I still can't name. Throughout the day we were kept on schedule by Marsha who operated from the pit-out tower with military precision. Thanks Marsha! Besides main course track time, students also spent time at the skid pad, an essential component of overall driver education. Best of all however, we were able to run hundreds of laps without a single mishap. I consider that a testament to both the format of the event and the emphasis that we place on safety. Reading comments on the forum after the event, you can understand why I am so proud to be a part of this event and NVCC. My thanks go out to everyone that helped put on this event.

Two days after HNH, the club held a Rallye hosted by Alice and Jack. Being terrible at Rallye, and still being tired from HNH, I skipped the actual Rallye but joined the group for lunch afterwards (hey, I was hungry). Sitting next to Alice, I was amazed at the process of sorting out the score sheets to determine the overall winner. Some of those clues are TOUGH! Anyway, it seemed like the dozen folks that participated, including the couple that drove up from Richmond for their second NVCC Rallye, all had a great time. Thanks for letting me join you at the table.

I can't say enough good things about this year's club picnic that was hosted by Richard Anderson and his wife Cheryl. Making the farm available was a great gesture on your part. Laurie is also to be commended for her huge part in handling logistics and making sure we had plenty to eat and drink. Thanks Laurie! Thanks also to Tom Shea for helping re-route the first 15 miles of the cruise to the picnic once we realized that very few cars were E-Z Pass equipped, which made use of the Greenway unrealistic.

Gotta stop here so I can get ready to head out to the Summer Thunder Cruise-In in Purcellville this afternoon. At least a dozen from NVCC are planning to attend so it should be another great day to be in a Corvette.

Don't forget that we have many other events listed on our calendar, from Concours being put on by other clubs, to Drag & Tune dates, Rallyes, as well as our annual NVCC Teen Driving School.

Check the brake fluid, change the oil, put a little air in the tires, rub on some wax, and hang on for another action packed season with your friends at NVCC.

It's a busy 2009 for NVCC. Come out and join the fun!

NVCC Social Calendar August 2009 – Laurie Kistner, Social Director

Sat. 8/8/09 (8AM-12PM) - Test and tune/drag racing session - NVCC, NCOA, NVMC, and special invites at Mason Dixon Dragway, Boonsboro, MD (4hr Private Track Rental, UNLIMITED RUNS!)



Driver price: PayPal \$52.00 per driver to Enforcir@gmail.com OR mail \$50.00 per driver (check made out to Cyril Coburn) to: NVMC, PO Box 104, Amissville VA 20106. Either of these pre-payment options must be done NLT a week ahead of the event. Pre-payment is preferable as we must have 40 pre-paid drivers or the event risks cancellation. Or you may pay \$60.00 cash per driver @ the gate the day of the event.

Spectator price: \$10.00 (Driver gets 1 crew member in FREE)

Special (Driver) Requirements:

- *Mufflers mandatory
- *1/4 sleeved shirt, NO SHORTS or OPEN TOED SHOES
- *Seat belts in working order
- *Proper safety equipment per your vehicles performance level i.e. (helmets for cars faster than 13.99, roll bar for cars faster than 11.49, etc.)
- *10 MPH speed limit in the pit area!!!
- *NO air conditioning on in staging lanes, ALL windows up during burnout and run

At the gate you will:

- *Pay your fee
- *Get a wrist band (goes on left wrist)
- *Sign competition waiver
- *Get a tech inspection card to fill out and bring back to the staff

In the event of rain, call Ebby (703) 200-6803 or Ceece (703) 346-8151 if you have any questions regarding the event being on time.

Directions to Mason Dixon Dragway are as follows: From Washington DC/NoVa: Take Route 270 N toward Frederick, MD. Take Rt. 70 W toward Hagerstown. Follow Rt. 70 until you reach Rt. 66 (Exit 35). Once at the bottom of the ramp turn LEFT onto Rt. 66 South, go about 1/2 miles until you reach Rt. 40 (you will see a Sheetz convenience store at the intersection), turn LEFT (east) on Rt. 40 and go just another 1/2 mile, the Dragstrip entrance will be on your right.

Sat. 8/8/09 (2:30PM-8PM) - The 20th Annual All Corvette Cruise-In, hosted by the ODCC and sponsored by Zip Corvettes. WE MUST GET THERE BY 3:00 PM to get parking together as a group. Anywhere from 3-400 Vettes show up! When we arrive, we will park and have a late lunch/early dinner next door at the Olive Garden for all those interested and those wishing to just get out of the sun for a while before the event officially starts (5 PM). We will then return to our cars for polishing, enjoying the show, etc...

Admission is \$5 per Corvette and includes 1 raffle ticket (proceeds benefit the LAWS Abused Women's Shelter) and vendors are welcome. Spectators are free but donation encouraged. Parking is first come, first served (no reserving spaces). Tents must be set up in the grassy common areas only. Dash plaques to the first 200 Corvettes. Mr. DJ will be playing oldies tunes. Great food and beverages at Big Joe's Pizza. There will also be many raffles, door prizes, and awards for the show. Please bring sunscreen/hats to protect yourselves from the sun. Some of us usually bring tents and coolers with water and refreshments...it will be very HOT!

Show coordinators: Mick or Leslie Lemish. E-mail: info@allcorvettecruisein.com Website: <http://www.allcorvettecruisein.com>
Caravan/lunch coordinator: Laurie Kistner: Email: lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com

I will be leading this caravan, meeting place will be Newgate Plaza, next to the Sunoco station, Joann's Fabrics, Post Office, and Trader Joe's (intersection of Routes 28 and 29 in Centreville). Brief driver's meeting at 2:30 PM, departing at 2:45PM. All those wishing to join the club caravan should email me at lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com ASAP.

Directions to the caravan start point are as follows:

From 66 Westbound, take Exit 53A to Route 28 South and then take the Route 29 South Exit, immediately turning right into the parking lot. There is a Sunoco gas station, Bank of America, Joann's Fabrics, Trader Joe's, and a Fast Eddie's in this plaza.

Directions to 7787 Sudley Rd (show location):

- *Route 66 to exit 47A
- *South on Route 234 (Sudley Rd) to 4th light
- *Left at light onto Sudley Manor Dr
- *Left at next light into shopping center (Best Buy)

Sun. 8/9/09 - All American Street Rods Summer Bash Car Show from 8 AM to 3 PM at 12775 Randolph Ridge Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 (Next to Angler Construction, Exit 44 off I-66).

Open to all vehicles - street rods, custom and classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Over 250 vehicles expected! Top 50 awards, specialty awards, DJ and moon bounce. Special performance by Restless Street. Food vendor to benefit the 7th ranked U14 girls soccer team in the country, VSA Heat Blue, from Haymarket, VA.

\$15 registration fee at the event. Dash plaques for the first 100 vehicles registered. For more information call Jason at (703) 508-9399.

Sat. 8/15/09 (12PM-5PM) - The Doukénie Winery's 2009 Cruise-in and Fun Show this year is being held in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Corvette Club on Saturday August 15th, from noon until 5:00 PM. It is open to all Corvettes, whether club members or not. Two prizes will be awarded. First, the people's choice as voted by Doukénie Winery's clientele, which weather permitting is expected to be in the hundreds that day. The second prize is owner's choice, to be awarded by the Winery to the owner of their favorite Corvette.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to reserve you a choice spot on the circle in front of the tasting room....but not required. Entry is free of charge, but signature of the routine NVCC waiver is required.

Register by e-mailing Richard.Anderson157@verizon.net with your name, address, and year/model/color of Corvette to be entered. More information on Doukénie Winery can be found at <http://www.doukeniewinery.com/index.cfm>. Doukénie Winery is one of NVCC's latest sponsors and we are looking forward to a truly fun show at their outstanding setting.

Sat. 8/15/09 (8PM-?) - Family Drive-In Movie Night. Last year, approximately 20+ Corvettes from various local clubs and members of the online community 'CorvetteForum.com' met at the Family Drive-In on Rt. 11 South in Stephens City, Virginia. This year, we want to see how many Corvettes we can get to attend. (Rain Date is August 22nd.)

The box office opens at 8 PM and movies start at dusk. The theatre is a family oriented establishment and offers a full snack bar, etc. Nothing fancy and no RSVPs needed; if interested, just show up. Adult admission: \$7.50, Children under 12: \$3.50. For info about the drive-in, visit <http://user.shentel.net/ccrker/drivein.html>.

Fri. 8/28 – Sun. 8/30 - Corvettes at Carlisle. This is always a HUGE weekend-long event every year. Expect to see thousands of 'vettes in every model, year and color. Many vendors, swap meet, corvette auction, and displays of all sorts to look at. It is the "Superbowl Sunday" of Vettedom.

I will be going up for one day only (Saturday, August 29th) and hopefully leading a caravan of fine 'vettes with me. We will meet in the Leesburg Premium Outlets parking lot (in the middle where the food court is, parking area #10, faces Route 15 Bypass) and take Route 15 through Maryland into Pennsylvania for a nice scenic drive. Drivers' meeting at 7:15 AM, leaving at 7:30 AM SHARP. PLEASE remember to bring your 2-way radios, and hit rest rooms/gas up your cars BEFORE you arrive at the meeting spot! In other words, be ready to roll, there are NO rest stops, it is only about a 1.5-hour trip! Once we arrive you are on your own to enjoy the many wonders of Corvettes at Carlisle.

If you wish to join this caravan to Carlisle, please email me at lilredcorvette94@yahoo.com. You MUST pay a registration fee at the gate if you have not pre-registered online. General admission is \$12 and children under 12 are free. Corvettes get to park on the fairground infield (Corvette Only parking is \$10). Visit www.carlisleevents.com to read more details about the event. Bring lotsa money.

Directions to Leesburg Premium Outlets (caravan start point): Take VA-267 West (Dulles Greenway) to exit 1B. Merge onto US Route 15 Bypass North, right onto Fort Evans Road. Address is 241 Fort Evans Road NE, Leesburg, VA 20176. Directions to Carlisle will be handed out at the drivers' meeting.

Coming soon...

Wed. 9/2 – Sun. 9/6 - National Corvette Caravan to Bowling Green 2009

Sat. 9/5 - Racing for Reading Car Show/Pace Lap Fundraiser

Mon. 9/7 - Labor Day Car Show/Cruise-In

Sat. 9/12 - LaGrange Wine Tasting/Car Show, Ride for Pride 2009

Sun. 9/20 - CCA All Corvette Drag Day & Fun Show

Sun. 9/27 - A Day at the Beach Corvette-Style Show

The summer continues to heat up with many events – car shows, cruises, social events, drag racing, rallies, etc...so be sure to get in on the fun! Details about events can easily be found on our website at <http://www.nvcorvetteclub.com/nvccforum/calendar.php> 24/7/365. As always, events are being added and updated continuously as we receive information, so please check back often. If you would like to host an event, contact Laurie Kistner at social@nvcorvetteclub.com at your earliest convenience.

Laurie Kistner
NVCC Social Director & Webmaster

Picnic 2009 (cont.)

By Laurie Kistner

I want to thank everyone who came to the Annual Club Picnic on Sunday, July 19th. A great time was had by all in attendance and the weather was spot-on! There are some very important people I wish to thank for their assistance with this event...

-Cheryl and Richard Anderson, for their most gracious hospitality in opening up their home to us. What a beautiful location for a picnic! Everyone enjoyed strolling the grounds and touring the farmhouse. Thank you both for putting up with us for an entire day!

-Anthony Lucido, NVMC member who donated the use of his minivan and helped me pick up and deliver the food and supplies for this event. Here is someone who isn't even a member of our club who spent his entire weekend helping us out. Bravo!

-Stewart Fox, for leading a caravan of club members with him to the picnic. Hope you all enjoyed the scenic drive planned by our president!

-Don Ellenberger, for bringing those wonderful heirloom tomatoes for us to enjoy with our meal. Delicious!

-The Lelanskys, for bringing their boombox so that we could have some tunes in the background to add to the picnic atmosphere. And everyone who brought extra CDs!

-All of my grillers who cooked all the food perfectly....and quickly! Burgers, dogs, coneys, brats, and chicken were on the table in short order. Fabulous job, everyone!

-Everyone who took pictures of the event and documented some great memories for us! I will be posting every photo I receive on the website when I get a free moment.

-Everyone who brought coolers and ice, very helpful for keeping all of the drinks and food cold. Can't have a picnic without them.

-Everyone who helped clean up, break down and load tables, etc...so that we could return Cheryl and Richard's house as we found it. Very much appreciated!

I hope you all enjoyed the event as much as I did. For those of you who did not make it, you missed out on some wonderful food and Corvette fellowship. See you at the next one!

Cheers,
Laurie

One of Our Own

By Ahsanul Sheikh

On Saturday July 11th, yes the day after the HotterNHell HPDE, our own Paul and Lori Benish tied the knot. The ceremony was a beautiful and touching event for everybody. Who knew that Paul would clean up so nicely? And Lori made a stunning bride. The ceremony was amazing and the bride and groom rode off in a 1933 Rolls Royce followed by their wedding party in a parade of 4 corvettes donated by NVCC members. They went to a beautiful photo shoot including the Rolls Royce, their wedding party and all 4 corvettes. By the way, if you plan on calling yourself a true Corvette enthusiast, having corvettes in your wedding photos is qualification #1.

After the photo shoot everybody gathered at their reception where a great time was had by all. The wine was great, the food was amazing and the DJ was a hit. Did I mention that the wine was amazing? If you look closely at the pictures, you'll see a great shot of yours truly cutting a rug with our CI Miriam Schottland. Yes, we were shaking our groove thang and doing the Lindy. Of course, when your 6ft 2in tall and weigh 260lbs, your groove thang doesn't shake as much as you want (see my planted feet).



Paul and Lori had an amazing day and we were all pleased to be there. Please join us in congratulating and wishing them the best in their new life together. We love you guys.



HotterNHell 2009

By Ahsanul Sheikh

Well, we knocked another one out of the park. The one NVCC event that I look forward to the most, as many of you do, has passed and was a great success. On Friday July 10th NVCC hosted the HotterNHell HPDE. Our one and only track event, each year, on the “big track”, the Summit Point Main Circuit. This is where our big monster V8 American Muscle Machines can really flex their muscles... (Did I mention that I was driving my miata???)



The great thing about this event, and all of our events, is that we invite other makes and models to join us. This year was no different. There were Mustangs, Miatas, a slew of Porsches, some home built / kit cars and even a couple of early 1970’s Cougars. What a great group of cars with an amazing group of people. Some cars were

faster than others, some drivers were slower than others, but it all worked out. People had fun and the event was one of the smoothest running that I can remember. Yes, it was a lot of hard work and yes it took a ton of prep time. Everybody played their part and did an amazing job.

Our Chief Instructor, Miriam Schottland, kept us on our toes with some “off line” exercises and even a slalom for the novice group on the front straight. Although most of the students, and instructors, HATED the slalom it did serve a purpose. Talking to one of the novice students a few days after he admitted that he did hate the slalom because it forced him to slow down & he thought it was a waste of time. When I started to “probe” he realized that although it forced him to slow down, it also forced him to be smooth with his inputs AND to look ahead which was something that he was having a difficult time with on the track. I could almost see the gears turning in his head. See, Miriam actually does know what she’s doing.....



All in all, the day was an amazing success with no major offs and most everybody left the track for the day with a huge smile on their face. And yes, as usual, for weeks afterwards I still find myself driving the track in my dreams, as many drivers do.... With the state of the economy, it’s getting more and more difficult for clubs all over the country to put together, and hold together, events like this. Many of them wind up having to cancel at the last minute because they simply can’t gather enough drivers or instructors. We should all consider ourselves lucky to

be part of one of the clubs that has a strong enough following, and strong enough relationships with neighboring clubs, to be able to pull off a large track event like this. I am extremely proud, as we all should be, to be part of such a great brotherhood (and sisterhood). Thank you so much to everybody who has made NVCC such a success and played a role in making HotterNHell such a great success as well. (You can almost hear the Star Spangled Banner playing in the background, can’t you???)





The Doukénie Winery's 2009

Cruise-in and Fun Show this year is being held in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Corvette Club on Saturday August 15th, from noon until 5:00 PM. It is open to all Corvettes, whether club members or not. Two prizes will be awarded. First, the people's choice as voted by Doukénie Winery's clientele, which weather permitting is expected to be in the hundreds that day. The second prize is owner's choice, to be awarded by the Winery to the owner of their favorite Corvette.

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Doukénie Winery is one of NVCC's latest sponsors and we are looking forward to a truly fun show at their outstanding setting.



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Drag Day 6/27/09

By Laurie Kistner

Saturday, June 27th was the second drag day/test and tune session of the season. We had roughly a dozen or so Corvettes come to Mason Dixon Dragway to make some passes down the quarter mile. For some it was their first time racing, for others it was all about whittling down precious extra fractions of seconds off their time slips. But for all, it was a very good time....mostly...



Club member Phil Wasinger ran well all day in his shiny red '94 ZR-1. Toward the end of the event, Phil decided he wanted to try launching just a wee bit harder off the line. Well, let's just say that after hearing the sound we drag racers hate to hear (CLUNK!), that harder launch didn't exactly have the effect Phil was looking for.

Luckily, Phil anticipated this and brought an extra spindle and tools to the track. I kid you not, this man was prepared! The spindle was changed out in 2 hours time and we went to lunch afterward to decompress. If anyone had to break something that day, that was the best possible outcome.

Also, club member John Folkerts made it out to drag day...not in his Admiral Blue C4, but in his....wait for it....Chevy Tahoe! Even more shocking, John almost made it into the 13 second club with it (his best pass was right at 14 seconds). Way to go, John!



Thanks again to all who came out for some fun on the strip and to our spectators from the club cheering us on (Tom Shea and Steve Netherly).

Laurie Kistner

Summer Thunder

By Rich Anderson

The annual Summer Thunder car show in Purcellville was well attended by NVCC this year with valiant leader Stewart at the head of the pack. For the most part it was a good weather day with an eclectic field of cars to drool over. The late afternoon thunderstorm demonstrated that the NVCC regulars have been molded into a fast acting team that can pack and scoot in a matter of minutes. There were lots of vettes and a strong showing from local car clubs. This local event should definitely go on your calendar every year.



National Corvette Museum (NCM)



Ambassador Corner

By Donald Patrick

JULY 2009: CURRENT NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Corvette Celebration and Corvette Caravan:

The NCM has experienced some confusion among participants registered for the Caravan recently. The Caravan registration and Corvette Celebration registration are separate events. If you are joining them as a participant of the **4th National Corvette Caravan**, which signals the start of the weekend festivities, you will also want to be sure to register for the Corvette Celebration festivities. Registration for the caravan and event are separate and can be found at www.corvettemuseum.com/registration/celebration/info.shtml.

Please understand that the NCM registration pages require each person to be registered and activities need to be selected individually as well. Their registration is set up by individual participants and not by carload. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact either Karen Renfro Karen@corvettemuseum.org or Roc Linkov at roc@corvettemuseum.org.

Dealerships Help Build NCM Library:

Unfortunately, several Chevrolet Dealerships that will not be operating after next year and many have been around a long time and have accumulated a great deal of literature and memorabilia. It has been suggested to the NCM that some of these dealerships are looking for anyone who might want these items and that the National Corvette Museum Library and Archives would be a great home for them. The challenge for the NCM is finding what dealerships are closing and if they have items they would like to donate.

If there are dealerships in your area that would like to donate items, we would be very appreciative. The National Corvette Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational foundation under the Rules and Regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. Any donation, either in cash or in-kind would be considered as a tax deductible donation under those Rules and Regulations.

Any donations or questions for the Library and Archives can be sent to:
Betty Hardison, Library and Archives Coordinator, National Corvette Museum, 350 Corvette Dr.,
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-467-8841 betty@corvettemuseum.org

Wil Cooksey Corvettes - Wil's Power (Article from Corvette Fever)



Former Bowling Green Boss's Collection Celebrates C4s, C5s & C6s

Cooksey's Collection: Former Bowling Green Assembly Plant Manager Wil Cooksey's Corvette collection is entirely Bowling Green built.

Has the "Golden Age" of the Corvette been going on since the changeover from C4 to C5, in your opinion? If so, there's one collector whose garage houses some fine examples of the later-model Corvettes. But these are there for one very important reason: They came out of his plant.

Wil Cooksey was plant manager at General Motors' Bowling Green Assembly Plant in Kentucky from February of 1993 until March of 2008. Before then, as he worked his way up the ladder at GM, he was a Corvette man--one who shared his passion with family and friends via GM's employee-discount program. "I was buying as many as two Corvettes a year when it was not disadvantageous in terms of the tax situation," he recalls from his home near Bowling Green. "That's because I was buying them, and letting my friends buy them from me, when I first started working for GM back in 1972."



If there ever is a reunion of all the Corvettes that Wil Cooksey bought from GM, and then sold over the years, it would take a huge show field to hold them all. That's because by his count he's had nearly five hundred. "There's four hundred and twenty-seven of those in the U.S., and the other 78 went overseas," he says with a laugh.

But now it's the C4 and later Corvettes that are the focus of Wil's collection, starting with a certain dark-red '93 coupe. "The 40th Anniversary has a special significance to me," Wil recalls. "I had been doing my job as the production manager in the Fairfax (Kansas) Assembly Plant, and I'd already put in my order for that car to be shipped to Kansas. What happened was, I got interviewed for the job in Bowling Green before my car was put on the truck. When I got the notice that I was going to get that 'dream job,' (plant manager at Bowling Green Assembly), I immediately got in touch with the Bowling Green Assembly Plant people and told them, 'Don't ship my Corvette--put it in my company-car spot because I'm the new plant manager.'"



Wil had already ordered this '93 40th Anniversary coupe when he was promoted, so he had this car taken out of the shipping pipeline and parked in Bowling Green Assembly's "Plant Manager" parking space.

The move to Bowling Green was not just a promotion into Wil's dream job, but a reunion of Corvette devotees. "That was like a homecoming because I had worked with the bunch here at Bowling Green back in St. Louis," he says of the Bowling Green Assembly and Corvette Team members he'd met up with during Corvette's transition to BGA from St. Louis Assembly. "I still remembered them, and they knew me--as a matter of fact, whenever I was having a new Corvette built, I'd drop by sometimes, take a look at it and pat them on the back, saying 'Great job, guys!' They were always interested in the fact that I was a Corvette enthusiast, and these guys were still building Corvettes for me even though I'd been transferred to (Fairfax) Kansas. Even when I was in Doraville (Georgia), I kept doing the same thing--I kept giving them orders, and buying Corvettes from them."

The C5s hold a special place for Wil, not only in his garage, but also in this Corvette man's heart. "That was the most innovative, most outstanding year when we launched that product," he says of the time before the all-new '97 Corvette went into production. "I think there's a lot of greatness in the fifth generation, especially coming from the fourth generation." He adds, "I made certain that I was deeply involved in every phase of the C5, from its inception. I had teams traveling back and forth to Michigan, sitting in meetings--I had people working in the shops, telling them, 'No, you don't need to do this, because you can't guarantee a quality job.' We were all quite engaged, and so I'm very proud of the fifth-generation Corvette, of what we were able to achieve over the fourth, so I said, I got to have C5s, because I know what went into them."

One of Wil's C5s has "a little something" more than a good selection of factory options--a 2001 that's equipped with nitrous oxide injection. He also has a 2003 50th Anniversary convertible, as well.

His 2007-vintage C6s have some interesting stories behind them, starting with the yellow one. Per Wil, when Millennium Yellow was added to the Vette's color selection, it wasn't phased-in as new colors had been before. "What I told the customers was, 'We're going to pull ahead new colors, and put them up front, because that's what people want,'" Wil says of the decision to make that bright yellow available from the start of the model run. And, what of his Velocity Yellow '07? Wil says, "It was a manufacturing-validation vehicle, from very early in the production phase." Wil drove it to Corvette events and, seeing not only how it performed but also Corvette lovers' reactions to it, made up his mind to add a yellow one to his collection



His black '07 Z06 is no less historically significant. "That car has the first set of chrome wheels that we produced," Wil says, "I was sporting' them, and showing everybody." And, just like with the reaction to the yellow Z06, Wil said to himself, "I've got to have this one."

Along with a flip-top Cadillac XLR that was also built at Bowling Green, Wil has one other Corvette in his collection. But this one isn't filled with the latest advances from GM Powertrain or the latest styling from GM Design. What it is filled with is a full-tube, race car chassis and big block V8 power to make it competitive in NHRA's Super Pro and Super Gas categories.



But Wil's 1/4-mile C4 Vette wasn't one that he'd been looking at. "Every time that I looked at a Corvette drag car, they all had firewalls moved backward, and every time there was not enough room for me," he says of the cars that barely--if at all--fit his six-foot-five-plus frame. "What I ended up doing is I had that car custom-made around me, just like you do a tailor-made suit." Brent Eubanks welded the custom-fit frame, while Lamar Walden built the engine and Wilson Competition assembled it into a turn-key race car. "They were looking into building full-body drag cars, and they decided that mine would be the first one that they'd do," Wil says. "They put a lot of wonderful detail in it, and it took a while to get it all done. They did a great job, as a show car and

it runs great. I don't have any complaints about it. But at the end of my car's build, they said, "This is the first one--and the last one!"

How quick is Wil's quarter-miler? "The best time on the car has been the low 9s," he says. "If I used the nitrous on it--I don't use it because I want to preserve my engine--you could probably put it in the high 8s. I figured if I can run in the mid-9s all day, I was happy!"

Does Wil have any advice for Corvette enthusiasts looking to turn their one-car devotion into a multi-Vette collection? "A lot of the love for Corvettes is often tied to some event in your life that you attach some significance to," he says. "When I came back from Vietnam in 1969--I left there that July--I'd been reading a lot of books and looking at a lot of cars. Theoretically, I could have stopped at the '69s if I wanted to." But he didn't, and he's got a very good reason. "What made me make my mind up (to focus on C4-later Vettes) was my contribution and my efforts in the Corvette Team and the awards, and things like that. What else can you really have drive you? All the quality awards that the fifth-generation Corvette got automatically makes it one of the most-celebrated generations of Corvettes."

And one that's at the heart of one Corvette man's collection.

GR8PL8S - Vanity Plate:

Do you have a vanity plate that shows your love for Corvette or the NCM? If so, send NCM your old plate and you may see it displayed as a part of our new Corvette Enthusiast area. Please send your original license plate to Betty Hardison, National Corvette Museum, 350 Corvette Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. License Plates submitted will not be returned and those not used in the current display may be used in a future exhibit.



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Newsletter News ...

A busy month was had by all and it looks like a solid month of activities lies before us. As always, I want your input for the newsletter to make it reflective of the varied interests and activities of our members.

As you can see this month, we've covered everything from a wedding to drag racing (both very competitive events). The really good news is we didn't have to cover any amphibious events during the picnic.

Take your camera whenever you are out and about with your vette(s) and show what you are up to.

Rich Anderson

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