

Cruzin'

Newsletter of the River City Corvette Club

C5Biscuit

Larry and Norma Harless' 50th Anniversary Beauty!



Inside: Club News! Club Events!

Volume 13, Issue No. 3
March 2007



Cruzin'

RCCC

Volume 13, Issue 3
March 2007

Ernie Pierce takes the Helm!

Contents:

From the President!!!

(we got one, and he's a winner!)

When the Previous President decided that he no longer wished to be President, I thought to myself, somebody needs to step up. After giving it some thought, I decided "somebody" could be me. IN a group such as this, that's what makes it go and function well, people stepping up to make things happen, often acting sacrificially. At the club meeting where I was elected, I voiced some things that I wish to reiterate here, since all of you could not be there.

I simply tried to tell everyone what they were getting now that I was elected. I think everyone accepted the things I said graciously, and I want to personally thank those that came up afterward and pledged their support and help. As most of you know, Susan and I like to travel, and we have several trips planned for this year. That means I won't be able to make every meeting, but of course, that's why we have other officers. That being said, I pledged to everyone there and now to all of you readers that I will do the very best I can to be at club meetings and club functions as often as I can, and to lead the club hopefully into fun outings and events.

This club has been a lot of fun for us and now its time for us to make a little larger contribution. I only ask for your support and help as we go through this year. *Ernie*

From the Editor:

At the February Club meeting a new President was elected to replace the departed R. T. Cutcher: **Ernie Pierce** was unanimously elected. I couldn't have been more pleased.

I've known Ernie Pierce longer than I have known anyone in the club, with the exception of Larry Harless, since I knew Larry for several years when I lived in Chattanooga during the 80's (our families went to church together). I knew Ernie before he joined our club because we were both members of the Nashville Corvette Club. Ernie and Susan moved to the area shortly after we did about 3-1/2 years ago. I've had the pleasure of getting to know him and Susan even better as participants in the club, and I have to say that I truly believe we have a "winner" as a club President.

Ernie believes in this club, and that its purpose is to have fun, enjoying our Corvettes and each other. He's the kind of person that I can support with great efforts. I am truly looking forward to the remainder of the year. It's going to be great.

When John and I were President/Vice President two years ago, you will remember we went to great length to put together a Rally. You may recall that the birth of my grandson, and Marilyn ending up in the hospital caused us to delay the Rally by a week, and so we called it off at the last minute due to so many not being able to work it into their schedule on such short notice (when it was delayed). Ernie and Susan showed up and ran it by themselves anyway. They gave us feedback that will be very valuable if we ever want to try that again. It took them four hours to run it, and they answered every question perfectly. Their feedback was that it was bit too long. It needs to be only 2 to 2-1/2 hours. I really appreciated what they did then—and I appreciate their inviting the club into their home on two occasions.

Yes, it's gonna be a good year at the RCCC.

Description	Page
From the President	2
Editor's comments	2
Road less Traveled	3
Vintage View	4
Feature C5Biscuit	5
Meeting minutes	6
Civil War Theatre	6
Coming Events	7
On the Road Again	7

2007 Officers

President: **Ernie Pierce!!**

Vice President: Gene Talley

Secretary: Nancy Price

Treasurer: Larry Johnston

Board Members:

Randy Slomian

Carol Kellog

Nicole Redden

Dale Sielski

Buddy Johnson

NCM representative:

Chuck Mindel

Newsletter:

Editor: Mike Nabors

Associate Editor: John Lemons

The Road Less Traveled:

From a Board Member: Randy Slomian

As a board member, I hope to help make the club all it can be. We have many members with many different interests. The board and officers try to come up with as many things possible, but we don't know everything you would like to do. With that in mind, here is your chance to tell us what you like to. Below is a survey that can help us plan events for the coming year. Please print, take the survey, and turn it in to a Board member or an officer. Check all that apply!

Cruising:

- Like to take trips of 1 to 3 hours Yes_____ No_____
- Like to take half day trips Yes_____ No_____
- Like to take full day trips Yes_____ No_____
- Like to cruise and eat Yes_____ No_____

Shows:

- Local Corvette Shows Yes_____ No_____
- Regional Corvette Shows Yes_____ No_____
- National Corvette Shows Yes_____ No_____
- Local Open Shows Yes_____ No_____
- Regional Open Shows Yes_____ No_____
- National Open Shows Yes_____ No_____

Competition:

- Drag Racing Yes_____ No_____
- Autocrossing Yes_____ No_____
- Track Days Yes_____ No_____
- Combination Show/Go Events Yes_____ No_____

Special Events:

- Trips to the Corvette Museum: Yes_____ No_____
 - C5/C6 Bash Yes_____ No_____
 - Corvette Forum Yes_____ No_____
 - National Homecoming Yes_____ No_____
 - Z06 Gathering Yes_____ No_____
 - C1/C2/C3 Weekend Yes_____ No_____
 - C4 Weekend Yes_____ No_____
 - Volunteer Work Days Yes_____ No_____
- Trips to Racing Events Yes_____ No_____
 - Road Atlanta/Petit LeMans Yes_____ No_____
 - Barber / Rolex Series Yes_____ No_____
 - Daytona Rolex (July 4th) Yes_____ No_____
 - Nashville / IRL Yes_____ No_____
 - SCCA Amateur Events Yes_____ No_____

Other Events:

- Trip to Indianapolis (Museum/Track) Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Woodward Dream Cruise Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Bloomington Gold Yes_____ No_____

- Trip to Carlisle Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Branson, Mo Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Maggie Valley (May) Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Cocoa Beach (October) Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Tampa (November) Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Rugby (October) Yes_____ No_____
- Trip to Effingham Yes_____ No_____

Parades

- Homecoming Yes_____ No_____
- Christmas Yes_____ No_____
- Seminars/Workshops (Local) Yes_____ No_____

Other (Write In) -- _____

I am sure I am missing some stuff, these are just some thoughts I have had the past couple of years.

The special events are quite fun. In particular, the Petit LeMans at Road Atlanta comes to mind. 3 days of up close and personal with all things motorsports. General Motors and the Corvette Museum sponsor a special parking area with a great hospitality tent. There are seminars, food/drinks, raffles, and shade/rain cover as the conditions dictate. The Corvette factory brings display cars (one of the first chances to see the new models) and has talks with the Q&A session being very popular. The Corvette-only events include 30 minutes on the track on Thursday evening, a celebrity judged car show on Friday, and the big race on Saturday. I have attended this the past 2 years and plan on going again this year. I highly recommend it. They also give a club participation award, would be a nice one for our club to win....you all can help!!

This club is for all of RCCC, not just some. I would like to see every club member come out to at least one event this year. Old cars or new ones, pretty or once-pretty, there is something for everyone. Just let us know what you want from the club and we will do our best to cover all the bases.

The next really big thing on our calendar is the Lions Club event the first Saturday of June. They have asked us....and only RCCC....to be a part of their wonderful charity event. At the last meeting, we all voted to accept the invitation. This is an opportunity to have an outstanding Corvette-only show and help out a very worthy cause. To make this a success for both the Lions and our club, we will need everyone's help and participation. The location is wonderful, there will be live entertainment, excellent food and drink, and lots of spectators!! If we can get our act together...we don't have much time to waste...we have an opportunity to draw well over 100 cars, but only if we can get things formalized so we can send out invitation flyers as soon as possible. Some people do need notice!!!! Please give the board and officers all your ideas as soon as possible for this event. Anything anyone can do to help get items donated for goodie bags and a silent auction will be much appreciated. This is for charity, so please find a way to participate. This could become a marquee event for our club.

That is it for now. There are more things to cover, but Mike will probably not have space for more. Until next month, stay safe and have fun. Let's all get along and play nice together. See you in the fast lane.....**on the road less traveled.**

#####

The Vintage View—1963

By John Lemons

So far we have looked at Corvette's humble, and stumbling, beginning in 1953. By 1957 GM had learned a lot about making an American race car that would hold a candle, and out burn, the European market and in 1963 Chevrolet uncorked a dandy.

While the engines and transmissions carried over from 1962, everything else about the Corvette was brand new. The brand new body was available for the first time as a closed coupe or an open convertible. The chassis was all new with independent rear suspension and transverse rear springs. What a car.

And what an introduction! Kept in secrecy right up to the release, the 1963 Corvette exploded onto the market. Only a few dollars could be "bargained" off the sticker price. This car was a tremendous hit and in high demand from the very first day.

Prior to 1963, Corvette had been criticized for having an outdated chassis and inconsistent styling. All of this ceased in 1963. This chassis would be good enough to last all the way through to 1982 and the body styling was second to none. Other than using drum brakes to stop such a potent machine, this new body/chassis pairing left critics with little to criticize and Chevy would take care of that in short order.

The styling of the 1963 Corvette was influenced by a one-off race car called the Mitchell Sting Ray. The story of how this "racer" came about, and the part it would play, is a huge part of Corvette folklore.

To make a long story short, three men, William L. Mitchell, who replaced Harley Earl as head of GM styling, Larry Shinoda and Zora Arkus-Duntov tricked GM and side-stepped an AMA ban on corporate racing.

The result was one of the neatest cars ever. The Sting Ray name appropriately captured the aggressive look of the racer's flowing fender lines and was used for the production cars.

We all know the story of the split rear window. Mitchell loved it but Duntov said it was stupid and blocked the rear view of the driver. Duntov got his way in 1964 when the split was removed, but not before a split rear window would create one of the most coveted Corvettes of all time.

Is the 1963 coupe really worth the extra expense? Not from any objective standpoint, but it has a unique place in Corvette history and nothing else will ever quite equal it. Just go to Barrett-Jackson and try to buy one!

Editor's note: There were exactly four 1963 Z06's built, each with 427 cubic inch "mystery motors".



Larry and Norma's C5Biscuit!!!

Larry and Norma's 50th Anniversary Corvette Convertible is special - and who else but Larry would name a Corvette C5Biscuit! But it makes some sense - a famous racehorse, and 350 racing horses under the hood. This car is but the latest of 3 Corvettes Larry has owned, starting with a '73 big block (that's 454 big cubes) and a '95 red C4. All convertibles.

What's special about the '03 pictured here (besides Larry and Norma owning it) is that it is the Anniversary Edition, with special paint - Anniversary Red, and special interior done in shale. Then there's the mods - Corsa Indy exhausts - with those oh so cool tips - strobes, smoothie covers under the hood, custom painted hoodliner, lots of chrome under the hood, and slotted and drilled brake rotors.

Why did Larry purchase the 50th version? Larry's story is that when Norma saw it, she said, "We ain't leavin' this car lot till that car goes with us." Now you'll have to ask Norma about the truth of that - we all know how Larry stretches it.

Larry is another that believes in driving his Corvette, although he is no stranger to winning trophies at the car shows either. To him, there is nothing like the open road, and he dreams that one day there will be auto-bahns with no speed limits as in Germany.

Of course when Larry needs the oil changed - there are legendary stories of how he manages to get others to get the work done for him, with help coming primarily from members Buddy Johnson and Ron Kellog.

And of course, there's THE dream. Some say it will never come true. Larry argues that it already has. The dream is passing the LeMans Blue convertible. Ronnie says "Only in his dreams!!!"

#####



Cover Photo: 2006 Vettes in the Valley

The Better Half!

Note how Larry is always getting someone to work for him!! Not many can get their wife to clean the car!



Cruisin' on Lookout Mountain—Fall 2006

Minutes: January 2007 (approved)

River City Corvette Club, Inc.
Jan. 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President R.T. Cutcher with a total of 31 in attendance. Silent Roll Call was made: Carol Kellogg, Nancy Price, and Billie Dempsey.

50/50 was won by Ed Simons. Additional, drawing for shirts, hats, or visors were also presented.

There are 2 new members for Jan. Ron Hastings and Steve Harrison.

The minutes from the board meeting were read and approved. With correction of wording from "voted" being changed to "discussed" the web master being VP Gene Talley.

Jerry Ray reported the club now has 152 members and the 2007 dues of \$25 need to be paid by March 31, 2007.

Larry Johnston presented the treasury report and it was approved. Larry also stated that the checks sent for the Valentine Cruise: which was canceled has been returned to those members.

New Business: Request was made for a volunteer for the position of Sgt. At Arms. No one agreed to fill this position at this time. The Dalton cruise was discussed and meeting at Chick. Dam @ 2:00 p.m. 01/21/07 was the set time.

Guest speakers were Keith Hindmon with the Local Corvette Forum and Tom Moyer with the Hamilton County Lions Club.

Mr. Moyer extended an invitation to RCCC to be the centerpiece of the Lion's Club annual picnic event by bringing the corvettes to the event. A motion was made to accept the invitation by Buddy Johnson and 2nd by Larry Harless.

There were several events and trips mentioned: Mike Nabors reported the Newsletter is going well. Buddy Johnson reported a Branson, Missouri trip has been planned and will be June 8-10 and the cost will be \$299 per couple including hotel, car show, and dinner show. Randy Slomian suggested Road Atlanta and Indianapolis Motor Speedway events. Gene Tally suggested Bowling Green Memorial Day Weekend. The Christmas Party was discussed with suggestions of Chattanooga Golf and Country Club and Bessie Smith Hall. The club voted to have the party at Bessie Smith. The date will be Dec. 7, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned.

First Event 2007: the Civil War Dinner Theater

Sunday, February 18! The RCCC treks across the mountain to Whitwell, TN, in pursuit of food and entertainment, not an unusual thing for our club members. Good turnout. Eleven Corvettes. Great crowd.

Destination: Buttonwillow Baptist Church, new home of the Civil War Dinner Theater. Food was good country fixing's—right out of Jefferson Davis' wife's cookbook. Desert was your choice of blackberry or peach cobbler, and if you asked just right you could get ice cream with it! The play was excellent, although a little long, but informative, true history, with much humor thrown in to keep us laughing. A great time for all!

Larry and Wayne
cuttin' up!!!



Corvettes at Buttonwillow

Events



March Birthdays

Alice Ray	3/4
Inez Simons	3/11
Damon Allison	3/12
Larry Harless	3/13
John Douglas	3/14
Ginger Maynor	3/14
Evie Usalis	3/14
Billie Dempsey	3/18
Lisa Daubner	3/22
Donna Roddy	3/22
Gene Adams	3/26
Tom Jenkins	3/29

This Month's Events

March 31: Cool Cars, Stone Mountain, Ga

Regular Club Events:

Every Tuesday: Dairy Queen at Highway 153 after 5:30 pm.

Tuesday, week prior to the monthly club meeting ea. month: RCCC Board Meeting at Dairy Queen Hwy. 153 at 6:30 pm.

3rd Thursday ea. month: RCCC monthly club meeting at O'Charley's Restaurant on Hixson Pike. Dinner at 6:00 pm and meeting at 7:00 pm.

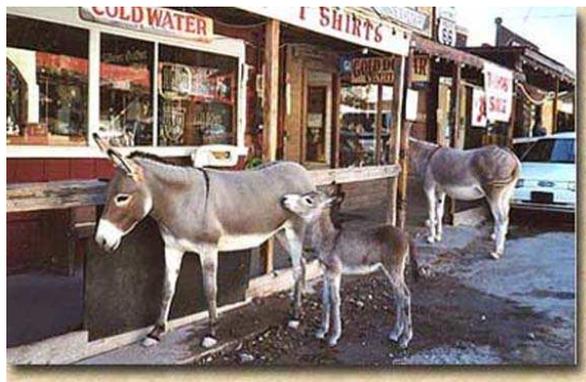
Every Friday in nice weather: Sonic Drive In in Soddy Daisy on old Highway 27—when weather is nice.

On the Road Again by Anonymous

A warm and balmy day preparing to head off on the famed route 66. Saddle up lets go ...

If you grew up in the 60's, you will remember a television show starring a red Corvette convertible and two young dude co-stars traversing around the country. The show, titled Route 66, was as much about the mystique of the car as the freedom of youth, prior to you having mortgages, worrying about stock market prices, and retirement 401K's. Just as the Corvette's mystique today delivers the "get away" by just dropping the top on that Vette, letting the wind blow your side burns, your finger nails dragging the asphalt and listening to Jimmy Buffett. Nothing can be better ... *not just a car, but a life style.*

Let me convey the experience of a trip taken the summer of 2008 along the historic route 66's 2,400 miles of tranquil landscape. Traveling in the tire tracks left by our forefathers in the 1920's through the 1960's. Reliving a bygone era featuring trading posts, full service filling stations, mom and pop motels, tourist traps, and diners along the backdrop of the "Mother Road".



Leaving downtown Chicago heading sorta West I was underwhelmed in a plethora of feelings, seeking the sights at 55 MPH and enjoy the scents of new mown hay and hickory smoke drifting from the pit barbeque chimneys. Nothing like the mesquite smoked wings found in Texas. Ahh but I digress.

As I left the land of Lincoln and proceeded on through Arizona, New Mexico, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Nevada, Washington and California. I sampled real American hamburgers and rich, creamy milk shakes that taste the way Grandma made em. I saw Native Americans living exactly like they have for hundreds of years, desert sunsets and sunrises as I stayed in the Blue Swan and Tee Pee motel, canyons that were grand, and finally the Pacific Ocean's crashing waves. **Reliving the legend, priceless.**