



Blue Bars



Official Publication of the National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc.

Spring 2010

ABOUT THE COVER

Wisconsin Corvette Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Hey NCCC!!! We're a nifty fifty, too!

Early in 1959, several Wisconsin Corvette enthusiasts got together with the idea of promoting America's sports car. At the time, the locals had no knowledge that a national organization was forming, but it was important to show those foreign sport cars that there was a better . . . an American way.

The initial group was composed of employees and customers of Humphrey Chevrolet, then the largest dealer in the state. We soon grew to encompass Corvette owners from throughout Wisconsin and, to this day, remain the largest and most active Corvette Club in the state. For a while WCC affiliated with Holz Chevy, the current largest dealer, and we maintain affiliation with many of the dealers of Southeastern Wisconsin.

To create proper identification for our club, symbolism was foremost from the start. The emblem should remain timeless, meaningful and easily recognizable, so we chose the circle to represent the wheel, overlaid a portion of a checkered flag for competition, included both our club name and initials, and chose the colors red and white to commemorate the first Corvette and incorporate the fighting colors of the State of Wisconsin. It remains as unique and fitting today as 50 years ago. You see plenty of it at Conventions and competitive events.

During WCC's early years we grew and became affiliated with the National Council, as well as continuing to enjoy competition on the local level with clubs of other marques.

In the '60's, Rallyes were the hot item, particularly TSDs or Time, Speed and Distance Rallyes. The numerous TSD legs are separated by Checkpoints, and we adopted that term for our newsletter's name with a large graphic checkmark and the point being once again our club emblem. Yep, it's timeless.

Late in the '60's and into the '70's, the urge to compete with driving skills led us to get deeper involved in Funkhanas, Autocross, Economy Runs and Ice Trials. Yes, Ice Trials. Autocross on a frozen lake. There's hardly a greater thrill to be had than to enter a decreasing radius turn on ice at 40 MPH and try not to play the part of a hockey puck.

Check out "Ice Trials" in older versions of the NCCC Rulebook and you'll find the guidelines for sanctioned versions. C1, C2 and early C3 Corvettes with their narrow tires were really competitive. And there's no better way to safely teach your kids how to handle a car. 40mph on ice is very much like 140+ on asphalt. Unfortunately, the glory of 11-inch wide tires has turned our

Corvettes into sleds and sadly, the Ice Trial is no more.

WCC members love to compete, eat and socialize. To demonstrate, in 1981, WCC was the first club in NCCC history to host a Convention that included every type of competitive event available, even an Economy Run (sorry no Ice Trial, it was July after all). That was the Milwaukee Convention; many claim it was the all-time best.

We even had a hotel pool contest where all were amazed at how many oranges can be stuffed into a swim suit. And we held the then traditional wet-T-shirt contest after the Drags at Great Lakes Dragaway which included an all-you-can-eat Brats, Polish and Italian Sausage social. It was a week of competition and parties, with plenty of food and beverages thanks to our four major brewers, Schlitz, Pabst, Blatz and Miller bending over backwards to serve us.

Now, we've matured a bit. The new century finds us continuing to enjoy socials, with monthly gatherings to assemble the Checkpoint (yes the machines can do it, but we like that get-together), a Monthly Social for social sake, a Ladies Outing, and Parades (followed by socials). And if that's not enough, there's always Corvette Corral at Road America.

However, don't think we've gone soft. On the Competitive side, WCC earned 4th place out of 31 clubs in the 2008 Mid-West Region competitive season. We play host to a joint 14-event Low-Speed weekend each year. We host Rallyes including 40+ years of great Halloween Hare & Hounds, and in September we host the "Corvettes for Charity" Concours & Peoples Choice Show at Holz Chevy with the event and silent auction proceeds currently going to Green Bay Packers Alumni, LeRoy Butler's Foundation for Breast Cancer.

The near 150 members of the Wisconsin Corvette Club are proud of our history and we look forward to sharing the next 50 years with all the other proud members of NCCC.

See you at Convention,
The Wisconsin Corvette Club