



# Blue Bars



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

Spring 2011

# ***CC of Illinois: The 2010 Story of Our 40th Year***

The CC of Illinois concluded 2009 with our annual Christmas party and many a great plan and expectations for our 40<sup>th</sup> year, 2010. As the cold winter passes, we continue to maintain contacts with our members with the monthly dinner and a movie, the March pizza party and our club banquet in April.

Bowling Green was also a destination in April 2010, along with a tour along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail distilleries (plus tasting) while passing the lush pastures of many race horse farms. A trip to the National Corvette Museum is always special as the people in the NCM make each visit uniquely more memorable. One of our regular rituals is to gather for a group picture around the 1953 Corvette in the museum that was donated by one of our club members, Ray Quinlan, who was NCM Life Member No. 1. A trip to the museum would not be complete if we did not pay homage to our fond memories of Ray Quinlan who without his help the NCM may never have been created. On to the factory tour where we had the distinct pleasure of being lectured by Tom Hill from GM's Corvette Factory in Bowling Green. We had requested someone knowledgeable about Corvettes to address our club during our factory visit and I guess the chief engineer at the Bowling Green assembly plant would have to suffice.

Our club regularly participates in charity events for a cause or the community. We kicked off 2010 by manning a water station in May for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Illinois Marathon in Champaign-Urbana and followed it up the next day helping with the MS Walk in Meadowbrook Park, Urbana, IL. Our first Mystery Cruise had a destination of the Chevrolet Hall of Fame collection near Decatur, IL. These cruises are always interesting as each club member/sponsor puts their own twist on the trip albeit the route or the destinations making each mystery trip a very memorable experience. We finished out the month of May with a lap around the track and enjoyed activities of the Indianapolis 500 Fan appreciation day with a stop at the Beef House on the way home.

Our individual club members participated in various car shows during April and May, and our club participated in the June Bement Homecoming Car show and consumed a lot of chicken as benefit of our participation. June was

also the month for our longest club trip. This trip had destinations of the Corn Palace, Rapid City, SD to tour Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer State Park, Deadwood, Sturgis and most of us even got "Free Ice Water" at Wall Drug on the way back from the Bad Lands. Then on to Yellowstone via the north route through Montana exploring all the majesty of Yellowstone Park, wildlife and an occasional close encounter with a buffalo. Part of our group experienced the Pioneer Village in Minden, NE while others visited the Amana colonies in Iowa on the way back home.

July started off with a fury after returning from out west with our annual participation in the Rantoul and Champaign, IL 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades. July also started the first of several Corvette displays/shows for the benefit of several of our sponsors and to help promote our Charity Golf Outing in September. The Corvette Club Olympics at Mid America in Effingham is always fun but no gold medal for us in 2010, just a good time for all and, like the Chicago Cubs say, "Wait until next year."

August was hot but memorable starting with a cookout at the farm of one of our club members. Great food, games and an interesting rendition of an "aqua" volleyball on a grass court led to a cool wet experience with nothing but fun for everyone. The next week we had a Mid America Motorworks Super Saturday along with a luncheon, then on to the Coles County Dragstrip for some Corvette Bragging Rights later that afternoon. We gained some more first-time racers and some "trash talking fun" and another great time was had by all on that very hot day. The latter part of August was the time for our Corvette Club Reunion at Sullivan-Parkhill Chevrolet in Champaign, IL. A Corvette show, a blind Funkhana, games, food and the general rekindling of friendships was the goal. This event was a success and, even though we greatly underestimated the participation as well as the number of show patrons, our goal is to make it even better next year.

September started off with several of our members participating in Labor Day parades in various cities. This is also the month for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual charity golf outing in Rantoul, IL. This year's club charity recipient is BETHS Place (Because Eventually The Healing Starts), which is an all-volunteer organization aiding in domestic abuse transition situations. Every year this golf outing grows larger and our club's women's golf team even took home 1st place for the women's teams. (NOTE: They were the only women's team.) Nobody won the new Corvette we offered for a hole-in-one prize, although many an "all in fun" bribe was offered. Seems like everyone would like

to have a new Corvette! September ended with another memorable trip for a Funfest weekend and enjoying the Guess Who band on Saturday night. We finished off September with a scenic mystery cruise for "Moon Glow" burgers and to view the new wall art in downtown Danville.

Things did not slow up in October as we started off the month with Moonshine, IL (Population is "2.") run for burgers at the general store and on to the Palestine for the Wine & Art Festival. The dinner theater in Conklin netted 56 from our club and the Weiner roast the next weekend at Varna garnered approximately the same. Homecoming parades at several high schools and 30 of our club's Corvettes in the University of Illinois Homecoming parade made for an interesting month.

The women did not worry about the parade as they were off on a bus trip to Chicago for a jewelry show on the same day. The U of I won their football game on the next day which we think it was because of our help with the parade the previous day (at least we can think it helped...).

November and December are starting to slow things down although our club is going to help out with a couple of town parades for the holidays, open house auto events and let's not forget our annual Christmas party with the white elephant/dirty Santa gift exchange. Stay tuned for who ends up with the buffalo dung sent to one of our members from Yellowstone last June. This is also the time when our club presents a check to our designated charity on behalf of everyone's efforts during the year.

I have briefly touched on the events that our club enjoyed during its 40<sup>th</sup> year and I cannot describe everything our members experienced in 2010 nor can I give proper recognition to everyone who contributed to make 2010 our 40<sup>th</sup> year such a success. If you desire, you may explore more in depth these experiences by checking out our monthly newsletters on our website. [www.ccofi.org](http://www.ccofi.org). None of this would have been possible without the ideas, work, dedication and the fellowship of our club members as they made it all happen! We cherish and share the joy and memory of these experiences, as well as mourning the loss of any of our club members as they are family, too. I am proud to be in the family of the CC of Illinois, a growing Corvette family that started with five couples in Champaign, IL in 1970 and has grown to over a 125 members with various backgrounds and talents to share in a common cause. America's only true sports car, the Corvette, started this evolution, but the friendship and good times is garnered right from the heart of our club members.

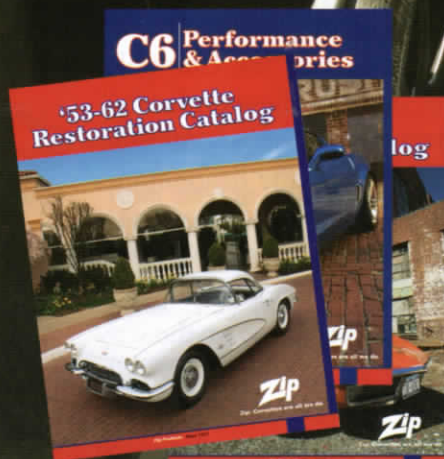
*Article and photos were submitted by Art Rapp, Vice President, CC of Illinois.*



Best parts. Best prices. Best customer service.

Zip stocks over 25,000 items for six generations of Corvettes. What can we ship your way today?

1-800-962-9632 [www.zip-corvette.com](http://www.zip-corvette.com)



**Zip**

Zip: Corvettes are all we do.