



Blue Bars

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BADGER STATE VETTES CELEBRATED 30 YEARS

It all started 30 years ago in February of 1984, when 8 Corvette enthusiasts from a primarily-social club sat around Gary and Pat Kelly's kitchen table and decided there was room for another NCCC Club in the Milwaukee WI area. They all agreed that they wanted a Club where the members were encouraged to be active and would be rewarded for doing so. They also wanted a well-rounded Club offering all types of NCCC competition plus a variety of social activities and involvement in charitable activities. Their goal was to have a Club of moderate size (88 members in 2014) made up of active members from Southeastern Wisconsin.

Three organizational meetings held in February and March of 1984 resulted in the formation of Badger State Vettes, Ltd. (BSV) as NCCC Club MW-246. Charter Members of Badger State Vettes were Ron Deppert ~ President, George Griffith ~ Vice President and Quartermaster, Pat Kelly ~ Secretary/Treasurer, Gary Kelly ~ Governor, Thom Schultz (deceased) ~ Board Member-at-Large, Ken Baewer, Linda Deppert and Mary Schultz (deceased). Gary Kelly, MW-246-0001 LM, Pat Kelly, MW-246-0002L and George Griffith, MW-246-0004, are still members. After getting permission from the University of Wisconsin, Mary designed a club logo using Bucky Badger with a 1984 Corvette (birth year of the C4 and BSV) emblem on his shirt, the outline of the state of Wisconsin and the name of the Club.

The first membership meeting was held on the first Wednesday in April 1984. True to its charter of providing something for everyone, that first year BSV sanctioned a Poker Rallye, 2 Gimmick Rallyes, a Low Speed, a Funkhana, a Record Drags and a Concours along with several social events. A tradition, which continues to this day, was established to provide a consecutively numbered dash plaque to each entrant and worker at every competitive event. This year BSV completed its 231st event, a Concours. Other traditions started that year were to have an annual after-Christmas holiday party and an annual picnic.

new NCCC Enthusiast membership with the distinction of having the first Enthusiast member in NCCC. Many of our social events are designed to involve whole families with a few reserved for the adults. Bruce Blunt III, one of our past Youth Members, is the Editor of our Club newsletter, *Badger Tracks*. His daughter Bethany who is 4 years old and a FCOA member helps with the stamps and labels. Youth Member Amy Cizel will receive a Region Points Award for 2014.

In addition to putting on 10 Sanctioned events every year, BSV has a goal of putting on one social event per month. BSV annually puts on a quad Rallye with Northern Rays Ltd, 10 Low Speed Autocrosses with Northern Illinois CC and a Concours in conjunction with a People's Choice and an Entrants' Choice. BSV makes its meetings informative for its members by having guest speakers to talk on topics of interest to its members. BSV was the first Club featured on Corvette Magazine.com.

Each year, BSV rewards its active members by paying for all or most of their holiday party costs and awards 4 Club traveling trophies for earning the most points in Speed Events, Concours and Rallyes or being BSV Rookie of the Year. The Club has 2 memorial awards given to members with the closest Matching Times in BSV Speed Events. In 2014, members received a discount on a boat cruise and lunch and received a BSV 30th Anniversary key fob.

BSV members have won several competitive awards and championships. Its members have accumulated 10 Midwest Region Points Championships, 2 National Points Championships and were Regional Champions in Autocross, Concours and Rallye at the annual Midwest Region Championship Series (MWRCS) weekend numerous times. Two BSV members are the only persons to have won a Triad at a MWRCS by each winning an FTD, a Best of Show and a Rallye Championship all in the same year. The MWRCS was discontinued in 2013.

In 2014, BSV finished in 2nd place in the Midwest Region and 5th in NCCC National Points competition. Not bad for a small club!

BSV has always encouraged its members to be active at the Regional and National levels. Current or past BSV members have been VP-Competition, Treasurer, Sgt. of Arms, and currently are FCOA Director and Business Manager at the national level. BSV

Even though BSV has always been a relatively small Club, its members have helped the Club contribute to charities and worthy causes. BSV was involved in the establishing and the early funding of the NCCC Mary Schultz Scholarship fund in honor of one of our charter members. Members of BSV established an annual Chili Cook-off for the southeastern Wisconsin Corvette clubs with the hosting club designating a worthy cause to receive the proceeds. For many years, BSV's FCOA kids earned money for FCOA by making and selling food at our Speed Events. In addition, BSV has put on Poker Rallies where the entry fees were FCOA or NCCC Raffle tickets. BSV has donated to 40 different charities for a total of over \$40,000. BSV has been a NCCC Raffle ticket 100% Club several times. Members of BSV worked the Corvette Dream and Drive events several years ago raising money for the Midwest Region. BSV also hosted a People's Choice Show and a Poker Rallye as Region fundraisers.

BSV has always been a family-oriented Club. When NCCC adopted Dependent Membership, BSV joined in with a Club Dependent Membership since changed to Youth Membership. Currently BSV has 7 Youth Members and they are among our hardest working and most competitively active members. BSV also adopted the

members have helped to do early development work on computerizing Points computation and the 51% sheet, formatting of a Finance Guide and a Convention Policy and Procedure Guide.

Current or past BSV members have accumulated several NCCC awards ~ 2 President's Awards, 2 Don Hoskins Awards, a Roger Clancy Award, 2 Touch of Class Awards, a Dolphin Membership Award, Newsletter Contest Awards, several 100% Raffle ticket sales Club Awards and a NICCI award.

At the Region level, current or past BSV Members have been RCD, RE (2 members), Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and RMD (3 members). BSV had hosted or co-hosted the MWRCS several times. A BSV member updated re-wrote and formatted the Midwest Region Standing Rules to fit into the NCCC Handbook.

BSV has always tried to be a leader through innovation. BSV was one of the first Midwest Region Clubs to have its own website.

BSV initiated and tested the Group I-Street and Peoples' Choice formats and got them put into the NCCC Rulebook where they have proved to be very popular.

BSV is looking forward to new challenges and fun times in 2015. See ya!

Article written by BSV member, Gary Kelly. Photo provided by BSV member Fred Loomis.

