



Blue Bars

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MAD CITY VETTES MARKS 20 YEARS

It was just a tiny little 3-line ad in the Wisconsin State Journal. If anyone out there is interested in starting a Corvette club in the Madison, Wisconsin area, show up at the Bowling Green bowling alley on Thursday. The significance of the bowling alley's name was lost on me at the time but as it turned out, it was an omen of good things to come. Around 25 people showed up that night. I invited a couple people from Badger State Vettes to talk about what their club was doing, and I tossed out some ideas I had. The evening ended with coupons for free custard and an agreement to meet the following month to fill board positions and start an events calendar. At the second meeting, board positions were filled, an event calendar started, by laws were approved, and Mad City Vettes was born. Ask our Members. They'll tell you MCV has turned out to be far more than we ever anticipated. The friends made, the memories created, and the places traveled have enriched our lives.

Our Club has developed a heart and soul, created on a foundation of good times, shared experiences, and support in times of need. Here are a few examples. The Club took a trip up North. I couldn't attend but my wife was driving my 1970 Daytona Yellow convertible when the alternator went out. During a lunch stop, someone had a toolkit, someone went to the local auto parts store and got an alternator, seven guys installed the new alternator, someone had a jump pack to get the car started again, and someone even knew not to trade in the correct, original date coded \$500 alternator. No one was asked to help. It just got done. They had her back. On another occasion during a trip to the Black Hills Classic in Spearfish, club members sat in the hotel parking lot counting who owned the most cylinders (garden tractors, string trimmers, go carts, it all counted). I remember trips to Vettes on the Rockies, Corvette Bash, Bloomington Gold, Vette Fest in Effingham, and Eureka Springs to name a few. Everyone who went on one of those trips came home with a story. I also remember sitting in church, shoulder to shoulder with other Club Members, shedding tears for Members who passed away and whispering our love and support to those left behind.

In our 20th year, our Club remains vibrant, committed and caring to each other and to the community in which we live. Our membership count has been steady at around 150. Our event calendar is filled with activities like Men's and Ladies' nights out; raising money for selected charities; various driving events; monthly meetings; tours of the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, and the Epic Software campus; and just this year, hosting our first NCCC sanctioned autocross weekend. Some of our Members have begun attending the NCCC Convention with additional Members interested in attending in the future. Many of our Club Members have been actively involved for more than 10 years, and there are probably 20 or more that are founding Members of the Club that have been there from day one. That is a resounding endorsement to the leadership we've enjoyed and the quality and commitment of our Members.

That little 3-line ad. Who could have dreamed that in creating an excuse to schedule driving time, we wound up with a wonderful Club, full of people I'm pleased to call my friends, who all share a love for the best sports car in the world? If I remember right, I think that ad cost me \$28 to run for five days. Best money I ever spent.

Paul Dowding
Founder - Mad City Vettes

