



Blue Bars

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BADGER STATE VETTES CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Badger State Vettes (BSV) is celebrating 35 years as a member of the Corvette family. Begun with a focus to encourage member participation, Badger State Vettes has participated in a wide variety of National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC) events and activities since its inception. Though not a large club in membership, BSV has annually placed in the top tier of the Midwest Region in year-end standings. Located in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, BSV draws its members from all over Southeastern Wisconsin. It has always made it a priority to donate to charitable organizations and causes and will continue this practice in the future.

Gary and Pat Kelly were instrumental in the formation of BSV and remain active members. Other charter members were Ron and Linda Deppert, George Griffith, Thom & Mary Schultz and Ken Baewer. The club wished to incorporate the Wisconsin state animal in its logo. The University of Wisconsin owned the reproduction rights to Bucky Badger and was gracious enough to let BSV incorporate the image in its logo. In addition to Bucky, the logo includes the outline of the state, the name of the club, and the image of the then-new 1984 "C4" Corvette logo.

That first year began the tradition of the first Wednesday-of-the-month meetings which still remains. The first year's events included a poker rallye, 2 gimmick rallies, an autocross, a funkhana, a record drags, and a concours. In addition to these "points" events, several social gatherings/activities were held, including a holiday party, a tradition that continues today. BSV also co-sponsors an annual chili cook-off, the proceeds of which are donated to an area charity.

As mentioned, though not a large club, BSV has been very active in charitable activities. It was an early participant in the formation and funding of the NCCC Mary Schultz Scholarship Fund in honor of one of BSV's charter members. BSV's own Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA) members have also contributed to BSV's chosen charities by preparing and selling food at various club-sponsored events. BSV has contributed to more than 53 different charitable causes and donated more than \$60,000 in the process. Charities that benefit veterans or animals are a priority for BSV. Additionally, BSV and its members support the National Corvette Museum donating several bricks, tiles, and dedicating theatre seats. Also, BSV members have helped organize and run various Midwest Region fund raisers including the past annual Midwest Region Championship Series, the concours at the 2011 NCCC Convention and have participated in Corvette Dream and Drive events.

In order to foster the ongoing viability and health of Corvette club membership, BSV continues to participate in the NCCC's Youth Membership program. These young Corvette enthusiasts contribute in several ways and ensure the ongoing success of our club and the national organization. BSV also participates in the NCCC Enthusiast Member program and had the distinction of having the very first NCCC Enthusiast Member. BSV has, from its inception, made it a club priority to focus on the family. At least a couple generations of some BSV member families are represented in its roster. The younger family members have become participating members of the club and have held positions such as editor of our newsletter, *Badger Tracks*. A BSV charter member received the NCCC President's Award for being the FCOA Director for 22 years; in recognition BSV donated \$800 to FCOA in addition to previous donations.

In addition to its charitable contributions to local organizations, BSV also rewards its members. The annual holiday party has its attendees in "active" standing reimbursed for the cost of their dinners. At the party, various traveling trophies are awarded to members who have performed the best in autocross, rallye, and concours. Also, the club bestows on its most outstanding new member the Rookie of the Year award. Two memorial trophies are given to those BSV participants who have demonstrated the most consistency in lap times in autocrosses. Even those holiday party attendees who do not receive a trophy receive a club-donated gift. Party attendees also participate in a silent auction and several raffle drawings whose proceeds are donated to a local charity.

BSV has distinguished itself by garnering various awards and competitive prizes. Members have accumulated 10 Midwest Region Points Championships, a pair of NCCC Points Championships, and have been Midwest Regional Champions in autocross, rallye and concours. BSV regularly places 2nd in the Midwest Region Points Championship; it has placed as high as 5th in the NCCC National Points Championship, despite its modest membership.

BSV members have undertaken regional and national administrative and leadership positions within NCCC. Members have held the positions of NCCC V.P. Competition, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms and FCOA Director. Regional recognition and leadership contributions include Regional Competition Director (RCD), Regional Executive (RE), Regional Membership Director (RMD), Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. A BSV member authored the Midwest Region Standing Rules for inclusion in the NCCC Handbook.

BSV members have garnered several NCCC level awards: included in these were: 2 President's Awards, 2 Don Hoskin's Awards, a Roger Clancy Award, 2 Touch-of-Class Awards, a Dolphin Membership Award, Newsletter Contest Awards, and several 100% Raffle-Ticket Sales-Club Awards. BSV has initiated other ideas that have helped to move the NCCC forward. BSV was instrumental in creating and successfully testing the Group I Street and People's Choice judging formats for inclusion in the NCCC rulebook. It was among the first regional clubs to institute an internet website.

Badger State Vettes continues to build on its proud past as it looks to carry-on with enthusiasm and leadership to improve the Corvette ownership experience, both locally and at the national level. As we begin another decade of club participation, Badger State Vettes can be counted-on to remain an integral member of the Corvette community.

Article written by BSV Historian, Bill Eggener. Photo provided by BSV member Fred Loomis.

