

## **MAD CITY VETTES 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Mad City Vettes was born 25 years ago from 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." About 25 people showed up that night. A couple of people from Badger State Vettes came to talk about what their club was doing, Paul Dowding, who authored the little ad, tossed out a few ideas of what they might do, and the club was born.

Paul states, "Ask our members and they will tell you that MCV has turned out to be more than was ever anticipated. Our club has a heart and soul, created on a foundation of good times, shared experiences, and support in times of need.

Paul and Cindy Dowding have always started the driving season with a roll out party that has turned into a dessert run, it's a beautiful ride through the country with around 30 cars and is a great event for getting the Corvettes out of storage and a great way to start the summer fun!

As Paul said, our club has really developed a heart and soul of its own. David and Leslie Armstrong would lead a Pie run every June, we never knew where we were going to end up, but the pie was always great when we arrived at the destination. It was an event that everyone looked forward to every June. When David passed away, we mourned as a group, and we all brought pies to the funeral to honor our beloved friend and Corvette family member.

As we get older, many of us have been heard to say that we can't get rid of our Corvette because this group is our family and we don't want to leave the family. It's so much more than just a car.

I asked several of the original club members for memories of why they joined the club and why they have stayed in for the duration. Leana Guelzow said, "As we look back over the years, we enjoyed wonderful club sponsored trips to Bowling Green, KY, Back to The Fifties car show in MN, Door County excursions, and many more. We also enjoyed many day runs that ended in a surprise restaurant location. Every event we took part in was such fun and the time spent with friends always such a true gift."

Our club is full of excellent volunteers. We have supported wine and cheese pairings and tastings, hosted car shows, and we have wonderful ambassadors for the love of Corvette. We raise several thousand dollars every year for our three local charities: Second Harvest Food Bank, Juvenile Diabetes, and the Carbone Cancer Center.

Some of my favorite memories are the Mystery rides that Marge and Rick Schappe put together. We would meet in a parking lot, get a map and end up somewhere interesting. We did a Halloween Mystery ride and ended up at a farm and Halloween party. One ride ended up at a historic railway and train ride.

Couples have met and married in our club, we have developed lasting friendships and within the last five years we have developed some racing champions.

Several members of our club have grown to love autocross, Car Shows, and Rallyes. It seems like once you get up the courage to try these events, it gets in your blood and makes you want more, and you're hooked! The love for speed, competition, and adrenaline takes over.

With the autocross encouragement and support of Joan Thomas, our Governor, we have become Regional champs in Autocross. I see our Autocross participants developing an autocross family and looking forward to meeting up with their autocross friends for gatherings across the states.

It's been a wonderful Corvette dream so far, and we look forward to many more celebrations, destinations and drives with family and friends.

Thank you to my fellow club members, especially those who have made it 25 years, with dreams for many more!

**Brenda Zarth**

