



Blue Bars



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GLASS FAVORITES - A 50-YEAR HISTORY

In the winter months of 1975, an idea began formulating to organize a car club with a group of Corvette enthusiasts. The group of ten began meeting in the home of Gary Prina, who would eventually become the first President of the Glass Favorites Corvette Club of Galesburg, IL. While many of those original ten members are no longer with us, John Dredge, of Galesburg, still enjoys talking Corvettes with current members and participating in the many club activities throughout the year. He has been an active member throughout the fifty years that the club has existed. Along with John are a number of members who can boast of being lifelong enthusiasts who share the same passion for sport cars, especially Corvettes.

As the weeks progressed that winter, the group began to grow and eventually held monthly meetings in an upstairs room at Martie's Restaurant on South Cherry Street. Sonny Fiacco's parents, Martie and Rose, owned the popular spot. Sonny was one of the ten founding members of the club. By the end of that first year in 1975, the club had a membership roster of 21, and a club sponsorship from the local car dealership, Weaver Yemm Chevrolet.

The first official outing of the club was to a baseball game that summer at the state park in Kickapoo, Illinois. They were joined by another Corvette club from nearby Peoria. From that initial drive-out, many such outings followed, including overnight trips to places such as Galena, IL, and The Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. There were many restaurants that the Corvettes caravanned to throughout central Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri as well. But despite all of the fun social outings, the club members were also very supportive of their community and organized numerous events to raise money for local charitable causes just as they do today.

As the club was forming in 1975, the local Carl Sandburg Mall was also just opening up. The club held numerous shows and events in conjunction with the new mall which proved to be very popular with the community. The early Corvette car shows held in the center court attracted a great number of people and opened the door to new membership. For five days in October, the club members organized a Haunted House for many years at the mall for local children to enjoy. The entry fee was 50 cents per visitor. In addition, the club sponsored an event they called Mayfair. Mayfair was a weekend long Corvette rally that included racing activities, car judging, and themed parties after the day's events. Another sanctioned event was held annually for many years at the Galesburg Municipal Airport. This weekend long Corvette racing opportunity proved to be very popular as the cars were set up to race on the runway of the airport where the planes taxied in. Many clubs and cars participated in this event each year that it was held.

It took a lot of hard work and organization, but these club sponsored activities brought in lots of funding for many charitable causes. In the early years of the club, the NCCC sponsored funding to the Spina Bifida Foundation, supporting research for this devastating birth defect in children. The Glass Favorites joined in by donating to the organization as well for numerous years. Other local groups that received donations from the club included the YMCA (sponsoring memberships for underprivileged and deserving children), Knox County Sheriff's DARE program (educating children about drug awareness), Central Illinois Kidney Foundation, St. Jude's Children's Cancer Research Hospital, Honor Flights for Veterans, and many others. Today the club is a proud sponsor of a scholarship to a deserving student at the local Carl Sandburg Junior College, with recipients receiving monetary gifts in both auto mechanics and the nursing programs.

Throughout the years, the Glass Favorites Corvette Club has strived to be very visible in the local community. The club has participated in a number of annual parades including the Prime Beef Festival Parade, the Galesburg Christmas Parade, the Veterans' Day Parade, and numerous homecoming parades. Members participate in various community car shows and host their own as well at the local Elks Club.

Next September several members of the group are planning an extensive road trip in honor of fifty years of the Glass Favorites Corvettes. They will be participating in the Vettes vs. The Dragon Driving event through some of the most scenic byways in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. The event will cover over 600 miles in three days of guided touring.

Much of the early history of the club has been preserved through many old newsletters that were donated to the GFCC by the family of Barry Wainer, a founding member who passed away in 2021. In every early publication it is stated that "The general purpose of the club shall be to encourage planned trips, events, and social activities for members; to provide and regulate events and exhibitions for Corvette owners, and to encourage careful and skillful driving on public highways." While this is still true today, the club has changed its direction somewhat over the years. Fifty years ago, as the club was in its very beginning stages, the aver-



A photograph of three men standing in front of a white sports car, likely a Corvette, in a car dealership. The man on the left is wearing a yellow polo shirt with a logo and blue jeans. The man in the middle is wearing a light-colored checkered button-down shirt and blue jeans. The man on the right is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and blue jeans. The background shows large windows and other cars in the dealership.

Founding Members of Glass Favorites
Corvette Club - Galesburg, IL



Last summer Corvette Super Sports (CSS) hosted our annual car show at the Buena Park Elks Lodge. We always have a great time, rain or shine! I mention rain because back in 2021 it rained on us! Whenever the sun would peak out, all of the owners would take out their soft towels and wipe down their “babies.” Then it would sprinkle again and again they would wipe down their Corvettes. It was a constant battle. Eventually, the sun won out, and trophies were given to the most devoted car owners. That was an unusual year. Most of the time it’s a beautiful day with sun, great music, good food, good company, and lots of fun for all.



In the morning, donuts and coffee are provided by the Elks and everyone donates a dollar or two to the jar. Later for lunch, the Elks club grills fresh hamburgers and hotdogs to order. Chips, drinks and desserts are also for sale. The Elks ladies make homemade desserts that are scrumptious! I look forward to them every year.

CSS raises money for our charities at this event. We support NCCC, National Corvette Museum, several social, civic, and charitable organizations such as Patriots and Paws and Ronald McDonald House.

If you have any questions, please contact our club president, Kieth Huff at 562-244-0244.

A man wearing a red baseball cap, a white face mask, and a high-visibility yellow safety vest over a black t-shirt is walking in a parking lot. He is holding a silver metal canister in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. In the background, a red sports car is parked, and there is a building with a stone facade and some greenery.

