



2013 CRCC History

The Cedar Rapids Corvette Club filed incorporation papers with the State of Iowa on February 19, 1963. This makes 2013 our 50th Anniversary year. A dedicated group of volunteers held 13 official, and many unofficial, committee meetings to plan a year of celebration events, beginning August 2012. The members were Jim (Chairman) & Laura McLaughlin, John Dolphin, Diane & Bob Bowen, Chris & Linda Thompson, Larry Bushaw, Doug Schoon, Bernie & Kathy (Secretary) Willenborg. The un-named spouses were also prominent “advisors” and President, Mike Williams, also attended most meetings. Terry and Cindi Kocher were instrumental in making a list of former members, as was Bob Bowen via NCCC. Linda Thompson researched and hired “Rock and Thunder” to play entertain at our 50th Anniversary Party. Special black 50th Anniversary shirts were designed for the year and everyone was encouraged to wear them as much as possible to our anniversary year events.

Many special events were held throughout the year in celebration of our 50 years. On February 11, members took a bus tour to the Chicago Auto Show and on the 19th, celebrated our incorporation at Cibo Fusion. April 26 found us at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Church enjoying a 1963 Movie Night watching “It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World. On a side note, St Elizabeth Church was the site of our meetings for several years. We toured the Iowa Speedway, driving laps and participating in a professional photo shoot on May 5; then headed to Ankeny to tour Karl’s Kustom Corvettes. CRCC received a huge honor on May 24, when our club was inducted as the first, and so far only, club on the Hawkeye Downs “Wall of Fame”. Our very successful and record breaking “Cruisin The Ave” car show was held on June 8. Then on June 23 we attended the Indy Corn 250 race at the Iowa Speedway and watched from a private suite. We held a photo shoot at Pat McGrath Chevyland on July 10 and in a spectacular fashion, mirroring Corvette’s 60th anniversary year with 60 CRCC member cars participating. The next event was a BBQ cookoff and potluck at Midway Park in Toddville, featuring the meat-smoking talents of Dan Colby, John Dolphin, and Jim McLaughlin.

The “BIG” event was a 50th Anniversary Bash at the Cedar Rapids Marriott Hotel, with over 100 members in attendance, including 7 charter members and the owner of the 1963 Corvette previously owned by Charter Member Merrill “Frenchie” Massure. If you haven’t heard, there is a great story about that car. The seven charter members in attendance were Joe Bernolfo, Ron Denny, Floyd Dirks, Bill Fahey, Bob Herring, Don Uhl, and Lowell Phelps. CR Mayor Ron Corbett issued a proclamation honoring CRCC for 50 incredible years.

On September 7, CRCC was honored with reserved parking at the “Vettes-On-The-River” event in Dubuque. At our September meeting, we were honored with a certificate for our participation and support of the Eastern Iowa Honor Flights over the past few years. On October 12, 65 members attended the 2 hour Mississippi River Boat lunch cruise aboard the American Lady. The next day, October 13, was our annual fall Leaf Cruise, with dinner at Timmerman’s in East Dubuque. The final October event was a Halloween Party and Potluck with bonfire at the Midway Park in Toddville. Our November event was another Movie Night at St Elizabeth’s on November 22. We watched “Good Neighbor Sam” and “Just Visiting”, with desserts provided by those attending. December 14, is the final Anniversary year event. It will be our Annual Christmas Party at Indian Creek Country Club. It has been a great year, and great times have been had by all. Thank You to the planning committee. You did a stellar job.

Members elected to serve as Officers of CRCC for 2013 were: Mike Williams, President; Mike Benge, Vice President; Madeline Watertor, Secretary; Larry Bushaw, Treasurer; Karla McMurrin, Editor; Dianna Knutson, Historian; Jim McLaughlin, Social Director; Larry Beebe, Governor; Brian Richardson, Homecoming Director; Chris Beebe, Competition Director; and Diane Bowen, Trustee. When Karla was unable to continue Kathy Willenborg took over as Editor. Also serving as trustees were John Dolphin, 2nd year & Lyle Knutson, 3rd year. Larry Bushaw continued as Webmaster and Bob Bowen continued as the Official e-mail Messenger. Chris Beebe is West Region Secretary for NCCC.

Bob Baker is our Ambassador to the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green. A special 50th Anniversary banner for CRCC's 50th anniversary in 2013 is on display at the National Corvette Museum.

The West Region banquet was held this year at The Machine Shed in Des Moines on March 19, 2013. The 54th annual NCCC Convention was held on June 24 – 28, 2013 in Bowling Green, KY. We wish to thank Pat McGrath and his staff, for all their support and hospitality throughout the years and for providing meeting space at Pat McGrath's Chevyland on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We really appreciate all you do for us.

In addition to our 50th anniversary events, a variety of "Dinner" cruises were planned throughout the year by our Social Director, Jim McLaughlin. These included cruises and in-town dinners at Jersey's, the Butcher Block Restaurant, Dublin City Pub, Rainbow Restaurant in Anamosa, Teddy's Barn & Grill outside Anamosa, Gwens in Lisbon, Okoboji Grill in Independence, Bella Sala outside Coralville, and the Lighthouse Inn Supper Club in Cedar Rapids. The Lighthouse was also our meeting place for several years. Impromptu cruises were also led by members to Breitbach's in Balltown, The Shanti at Gunder, and others.

Our annual sanctioned Hawkeye Downs Autocross event was held the weekend of August 24 & 25 with great weather and competition. Thanks to Chris & Larry Beebe for organizing this annual event, John Pickrell for a great job at the timing table, the starters, spotters, runners, Diane Bowen for arranging the Pizza party after Saturday's event, and everyone else that helped make the two-day event such a success.

In 2013, CRCC continued to support and honor our World War II and Korean veterans. There were four Honor Flights to Washington D.C. out of the Eastern Iowa Airport with about 90 veterans on each flight. CRCC provided "Thank You" plaques for every veteran participating and a contingent of CRCC members converged on the airport when the flights returned around 10:00 p.m to welcome them home. Several CRCC members have served as Guardians for veterans on the flights. A number of veterans have sent heartfelt notes of thanks for the plaques. Any of the CRCC members who have been at the airport to welcome the veterans home will tell you that it is one of the most rewarding and heartwarming activities they have done.

CRCC received the first place participation award at Camp Courageous again this year and, as is our custom, donated the award back to Camp Courageous for their programs, along with our check from the 2012 Homecoming parade season. This fall CRCC members participated in 20 Homecomings with 197 cars. Proceeds will provide our annual donation to Camp Courageous in May 2014.

Thanks again to our terrific car show co-chairs, for planning and running a great "Crusin the Ave" car show. There were a record number of entries for this year's most successful show. Checks for \$3000 each were presented to representatives of this year's 4 Car Show Charities: Miracles-in-Motion, Make-a-Wish, Clothe-a-Child, and Eastern Iowa Brain Injury Association, at the October meeting at Pat McGrath's Chevyland.

CRCC welcomed new members in 2013: Geri Scherm, Dave Callan, Ryan Deerberg, Al Deerberg, Kirk Hoepfner, Bill & Von Cary, Dave & Kathy Markham, Patrick & Cindy Rae McElliott, Orlyn & Kathy Brunssen, Charles & Kimberly Buckingham, Jim & Gwen Atty, and Steve & Joan Dolezal. Some were former members who have returned to membership. Several members welcomed new grandchildren into their families and new (to them) Corvettes are gracing the driveways of at least nine CRCC families. Chloe Wasendorf, daughter of Clint and granddaughter of Wes & Marlene, received a \$1000 West Region scholarship this year.

Several members suffered with health issues this year. CRCC expresses our condolences to members, families, and friends of CRCC at the death of their loved ones: Bob Coleman (Sister), family of charter member Merrill Massure, family of charter member Kenneth Anderson, NCCC Board Member Joan Thomas (Husband), Dave Ster (Brother-in-law), Terry Primrose (Sister), Dick Butschi (Brother), Doug Schoon (Father), Linda Thompson (Father), and the family of charter member Harry Rude,

The 2013 Christmas Party will be held at the Indian Creek Country Club on Dec 14. Officers for 2014 will be announced. What a year! What a ride! What will the next 50 years bring?