



# Vette Gazette

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Sept 2020

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# Special Edition

## A Tribute to Arne Johnson





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# *A Tribute to Arne*

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Arne joined the EMCC in June, 2000 and contributed many articles to the Vette Gazette. He then went on to hold the position of Editor for many years and received the President's Award for his contributions. Arne's very good friend, Bob Gardner, selected several of Arne's articles that he felt represented Arne's spirit in the EMCC. I selected "Show and Shine" simply because it was Arne's last article and just before he passed. We hope this special edition will give you some insight into the wonderful man who was, Arne Johnson, and hope this is a fitting tribute.

-Gerry Criscenzo,  
Editor/Publisher, Vette Gazette.





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# *FAREWELL ARNE JOHNSON*

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**By Bob Gardner**

On Thursday, August 13, 2020 Barbara and I attended the final services for our dear friend and member Arne Johnson at a funeral home in Ashland. Today's sorry times mandated that the ceremonies be small and they were, just us and his family. That family includes a number of sisters from all over plus Arne's two daughters and their families (his beloved grandchildren). A short viewing period was followed by a more traditional service in the chapel attached to the funeral home. Each of Arne's daughters spoke to us as well as his eldest grandchild, Madison. It was a moving and informative tribute to a man who deeply loved his family and would talk with pride of it at the drop of a hat. I came away knowing that our old pal was of Danish descent and considered himself descended from Vikings. He met the lovely Ida while they were students at BU, after his tour in the US Army. That connection worked out so well that three of Arne's college pals married three of Ida's sisters! I think I got this right, but anyway it's a great story. Arne also dabbled in oil painting with more than average success and loved to garden. His last great love was his Corvette(s) and the club he joined in June, 2000. Finally, he had a long professional career, always with the same company, even though it went through four ownership changes finally ending up as Xerox. Through it all, they felt him too valuable to let go.

I first met Arne Johnson when he was still working for Xerox. We began a series of visits to his worksite at which he and his employees would prepare a feast for us at the heart of which was a fried turkey. What a deal! We became friends with all the Xerox employees. They had these huge printers for doing blueprints and color photographs. Arne offered to do poster sized pictures of all our cars. I had my '97 at the time. We all showed up and one by one high resolution digital pictures were taken. Finally, we all got our posters. And a great feed.

Arne went on to be a very active member, a regular at meetings. He volunteered to publish the Gazette for several years though he confided in me his real joy was in writing his regular articles. He was a good writer, in my humble opinion, always finding something to write about and always on deadline. He loved to go to car shows. His favorite was right round the corner from his house at a place named Kidde-Fenwal. It wasn't a big show but he liked them small. Another favorite was right here in my home town at the Forge Hill Assisted Living facility. He'd get there early, park, set up his chair, and that was it. He particularly liked to bring his grandson Adam and I have memories of Adam as a little boy in his own chair at the Walpole Field Day or with his grandpa (they all called him Pop) at the Collings Foundation WWII Demonstration.

We lost our pal just shy of his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Cancer came and took him so quickly we hardly had time to react. First he was hospitalized; then he was released home; then he was hospitalized again and he was gone; all in a span of about two weeks. I will dearly miss finding him at the back of the room on meeting nights or in his folding chair under the tree at Static Cruises.



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# Messages From EMCC Friends

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I met Arne 12 years ago when I joined EMCC. We soon realized that we had graduated the same year from the same High School yet never knew each other at that time. One thousand students in our class and 3000 in the school explains it.

Arne was a gentleman with a well-developed dry sense of humor. He was always kind, caring, and the first to offer help or assistance.

His many submissions to The Gazette we're were looked forward to by the membership who appreciated both the content and quality of his writing. In short, Arne was a giver in many ways and will be greatly missed by anyone fortunate enough to have known him.

## **Bob Grenier**

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Sunday, August 9, was a sad day in the Corvette world. Our dear member, Arne Johnson passed away this day.

Arne had been a member of our Club for over 20 years and has been a very active member. There are many stories to share about Arne who was such a kind man. Most all of us have been enjoying his articles in the Gazette for years.

Before Arne retired, he would include the Club in some of his work events. He made posters of our cars for all of us who attended the photo shoot he orchestrated for us. Most of us remember Arne as a true gentleman and a pleasure to associate with.

This static cruise season in Walpole was a wonderful time for Arne who was chauffeured to the event in his own car, by his side kick, grandson, Adam, who has been a part of the EMCC world since he was very young. Arne attended his last static cruise just before he passed.

## **Mal, Prez**



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# A Reflection In Courage

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**By Arne Johnson**  
**January, 2018**

This month I'm tackling a subject that has an association with Corvettes but we are looking instead at the owner of a Corvette and a member of our club. He is a member who reflects a quiet leadership and easy friendship with each contact he makes.

Despite fighting the battle of his life, against a currently incurable disease, he retains a warmth and good spirit that seems incredible for one who has known the difficulties of chemotherapy and stem cell techniques intended to extend his life.

Part of his continuing support structure has been his wonderful family and friends. By now you know I'm writing about John Pinciario affectionately known to us as "Pinch" and his fight against Multiple Myeloma. Despite the hardships faced, Pinch is planning to hold the EMCC annual "Wash & Shine" at his facility in Millis on Rt, 109. One of the most successful events each year.

This year it is scheduled for April 27th and the next day Pinch will attend his "Pinch's Punch Back" event and Boston SK to raise money to help find a cure for this insidious disease. If you have been watching on Facebook, you know that Pinch has been traveling in Europe and was fortunate enough to see the sites of Paris prior to the great fire of Notre Dame that burned that iconic edifice to the ground. It also appears he had some time to spend with extended members of his Italian family while enjoying the pleasures of Italy. With





# Don't Spend What You Don't Have

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**By Arne Johnson**  
**February, 2019**

I find as I age I am spending more of the time reading. This month I read two books. Most of my reading pertains to books about history. One might think at 80 years old I have had enough of history. My reading took a different direction at one point and I was reading the text of a letter from a financial adviser that did not relate to a stock or bond investment but rather refreshingly to a Corvette order.

It seems a gentleman named, Gunther Claub, had become frustrated with government's wasteful habit of spending money they don't have. Gunther decided he would take advantage of the wasteful spending and apply the same to his advantage by spending money he did not have.

He decided to purchase a new Corvette and send the bill to the government requesting that they pay for it.

He choose to send the bill to Vehicle Details the Department of Agriculture and attached a polite note stating, "Thank you for paying this debt." The USDA employees, having no sense of humor, sent the request on to federal prosecutors. Charged under the False Claims Act, Gunther finds himself facing a possible 25 year sentence.

Stranger still is the government may face a cost of confinement for Gunther of \$800,000. It seems it would have been a bargain to pay the \$100,000 bill for the Corvette.

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<b>TOTAL MSRP</b>	<b>\$139,410.00</b>
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# Enjoying The Show

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**Story and Photos  
By Arne Johnson  
July 2019**

For some time now three members of EMCC have united to attend select small shows. By small we mean a hundred plus cars or enough to fill the available space in a relatively small venue. It started with the idea that those attending might enjoy the smaller events where there was a chance to draw some interest in their car as opposed to being lost as the one of many hundreds in attendance. What we have found should not be of any particular surprise but may prove of interest to some of our readers. The character of a show seems to reflect the local community taste.



For example, if you attend a show in Wellesley you find a lot of very well renovated high quality custom cars. Jaguars, Lincolns, MG's and exotic sports and customs worthy of high level show submissions and an assortment of 50'S and 60'S American made beauties.

The crowds are friendly and family oriented and often bring the family dog. On the other hand if you attend a show such as Pete's Bluebird Restaurant in Bellingham the atmosphere may switch to cars that are customized for power rather than physical fit and finish. The turnout is surprisingly large and every

available space is occupied but the main event is not so much the winning of a trophy but instead the main event is departure with the best peel out possible.

Crowds gather along Rt. 140 to cheer on the gladiators who leave with tires complaining loudly as their hides are peeled and left embedded in the road and smoke fills the space once occupied by oxygen. You may lose one or two gladiators in the process to injury and hopefully no worse. Road rash can be a cruel and painful condition to the motorcyclist not adequately protected.

Whether the event is in Wellesley or at Pete's they each bring us a day of sunshine and fun if you love cars and the sport of showing them off on the field or on the road. As for me, this old man will save my much too old tires and putt quietly away to the next event wherever it is.





# Horsepower

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By Arne Johnson  
January 2018

As active Corvette owners, we are familiar with the many horsepower changes that have occurred over the years and the variety of model offerings. I came across the included chart on line and those changes really hit home when viewed inserted into a single list. The top range today is 755hp for the newest offering but even the mighty 755 may not stand for long if the mid-engine is a predicted 850hp. Interesting that the foundation for much of the ancestry and the foundation of many engines, the 350hp, doesn't even make the charts any longer. Makes me feel like I am driving an under powered sedan by today's standard.







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# It's Anyone's Guess

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**By Arne Johnson**

**January 2019**

There has been much speculation surrounding the delay of the Corvette C8 announcement for an additional six months possibly placing its release into 2020. Reasons not given but rumored and speculated on vary from serious failures to more humorous guessing.

Just a sample are:

1. It is the result of serious electronic failures in current testing. Could be but questionable.
2. Maybe it's a marketing/financial issue in that the much higher pricing (\$170,000) will leave many in the current loyal Corvette buyers unable to purchase the C8. The Mustang Bullitt is priced around (\$47,590). The Super Charged ZR1 may beat the Mustang GT and Bullitt but the ZR1 is still in a price range that maintains customer loyalty.
3. GM is currently making severe cuts in manpower. Is the C8 caught in part of this extensive reduction? Some in GM have said, "It isn't so." It seems a possibility due to internal strife and reorganization, there could be cause for delay.
4. Corvette canceled the initial showing at the 2019 Detroit Auto Show. The thought is that this show is losing its following and GM will instead display the new Cadillac XT6 Crossover.
5. There is also a rumor that too many other new and improved sports cars will be announced and the competition at the Detroit Show may affect GM's draw for attention. Seems unlikely that the C8 would go unnoticed with so many waiting to see it. Some, at least in theory, have waited since 1970 when a mid-engine prototype was created.

It's anyone's guess.  
What's yours?





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# Show and Shine

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by Arne Johnson  
August, 2020

While looking through the current issue of Car and Driver, I came across an article by Elana Scherr called "Show and Shine". Elana addresses the issue of car shows being shut down due to the ongoing pandemic.

She decides to use her time to seek out those in her neighborhood who have classic or custom cars thus creating for herself a personal car show.

She is quite successful in her search and inspired me to try something similar. I have seen some vehicles driving by over the years so I stated with some known vehicles to look for. The weekends are when you will most likely see cars coming out of the garage for driving or shining.

I got in my Vette and began cruising the local neighborhood. I may have been the one most on display but my first treat was a '53 Chevy pickup. It was black on black with a modified throaty sound to its engine. I had seen this pickup before. It has been for sale in Hemmings at one time and it has a history of a father and son trip across country.

A short time later, while making a right turn a '64 Chevy sedan passed making a left turn into the neighborhood. It was blue with matching interior and sounded like a V8. I managed to get a wave but it was the first and last time I have seen it.

Later in the day, while in my driveway, I heard a modified engine or a lost muffler turn the corner onto our road. It turned out to be a mid '70's Buick convertible. It was driven by an older gentleman who isn't too friendly. I have waved in the past but never received any acknowledgement. I ended the day with another neighbor, by the name of Pete, stopping by to show me his purchase of a late model Mercedes Convertible he bought the car on line from a site in Texas. It was red with a black interior.

I would never want to buy sight unseen, but Pete did and I admired the result. I may not have made out as well as Elana Scherr but I managed to do some slow site seeing through parts of the neighborhood I would not normally have wandered thru.



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# In Loving Memory

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