



# Vette Gazette

Also on [easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

October 2020



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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# President's Message

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)



It is so hard to believe that fall has arrived. Actually, this is my most favorite time of year especially to take out the Vettes and enjoy the foliage. This year the beauty of the change in color is early. We still have cruising time before Ole Man Winter arrives. I hope everyone has **October 18<sup>th</sup>** on their calendar for our **Annual Fall Foliage Cruise**. It is going to be special this year.

With the days getting darker earlier and the air getting quite crispy, our Tuesday Static Cruises will soon disappear for the season. Thank you again to Steve and those who have attended the event. It was a wonderful event this year especially during Covid-19. The venue seems to work very well and it looks like next year we will be gathering at the same place. We will be ending the Tuesday Static Cruise on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> with pizza at 5:00 PM.

As you all know, we had two Membership Meetings in the parking lot at Lake Pearl and they were very successful and enjoyable. I don't see us able to squeeze another meeting in at that location. We have had some members volunteer their garages for a meeting spot. We have decided to hold our **October 5<sup>th</sup> membership meeting at 5:30** at the **garage of Larry Colvin in Walpole**. The meeting details will be sent to you by email. Please make an effort to attend. Although we do not have a lot of items on the agenda, it is always good to get together. Thank you, Larry. Also, thank you Frank for volunteering your garage.

Our September meeting brought a lot of issues/ideas/etc., to the table and the membership voted on everything with little controversy. Thanks to all who attend the meeting and shared their thoughts.

I hope all of you who were unable to attend the meeting read the minutes of the meeting as presented by our Secretary, Steve. Note that Rick Wile did sell his Corvette and he has been voted to be an Associate member. It is important to preserve the relationships we make being members of the Club.

We had quite a busy year with all of the events and a huge thank you goes to Bruce Kolovoson for pulling the events together. Thanks to the members who sponsored events. They were all enjoyed. We are already putting together the calendar for next year. Please talk to Bruce and make an effort to sponsor an event and get the date on the calendar. Organization makes everything much easier. I personally am hoping that Bob Gardner will be able to lead us to the Botanical Gardens this coming spring (Covid-go away!). I recently heard Bob G has other events planned for us. During a conversation I had with Bruce last week, he already has a few very interesting events coming up in 2021.

I hope everyone has had the opportunity to read through the Special Edition of the Gazette that Gerry put together in honor of Arne. It is absolutely fabulous. Thank you so much Gerry. Arne was very special to this Club and you did a great job showing how much we cared for him. As most of you know, the Club has purchased a brick at the Corvette Museum in Arne's honor and memory. Ida has already emailed the Club thanking us for the wonderful tribute to Arne. Gerry, thank you so much for such a beautiful job.

The Celebration of Life for Dennis Collins took place on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please see the article elsewhere in this Gazette.

Be safe and stay healthy.

SMOKEN - Mal



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# Executive Board & Chairpersons

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

**President:** Mal Smith  
781-706-5762, AuntieMal@aol.com



**Vice President:** Gerry Criscenzo  
508-735-9311, gcriscenzo@gmail.com



**Secretary:** Steve Syliva  
508-505-8208, tyrysy@comcast.net



**Treasurer:** Bill Schroeder  
781-769-2389, wrs600@gmail.com



**Social Chair:** Bruce Kolovson  
508-789-7780, ski1000@verizon.net



**Membership Chair:** Bob Hanson  
617-840-8202, rhanson3@verizon.net



**Publications Chair & Webmaster:**  
Gerry Criscenzo



**Sunshine:** Judy Pitasi  
508-966-9026, rdvette72@aol.com



**Facebook:** Keith E. Jacobson  
617-527-2100,  
kamerakeith@gmail.com



**Eastern Mass Corvette Club is a non-profit social club for Corvette owners.**

EMCC sponsors and attends many Corvette events throughout the year, including: regional car shows, Corvette displays, cruise nights, Fall Foliage Cruises, multi-club Corvette cruises throughout N.E, and seasonal get-togethers.

**Eastern Mass Corvette Club**  
**P.O. Box 291, Medfield, MA 02052, US**



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# Club Calendar

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[.eastermasscorvetteclub.org](http://eastermasscorvetteclub.org)

As we wind down our crazy 2020 cruising season, our standing events will become impromptu so watch your emails.

- **Tuesday, Oct 13, will be our last "official" Static Cruise. Pizza at 5pm!**
- **Cruises will be spontaneous. Watch your email.**
- **Board Meetings:** Last Monday of every month.
- **Member Meetings:** 1st Monday of every month. Larry Colvin has super graciously offered to host in his fabulous garage but is weather dependant. If it snows, no meeting. Subject to change. Watch your emails! In doubt? Contact a Board Member.



Social distancing will always remain IN EFFECT!! Please respect those who are social distancing and wear your mask. Our website has the most up-to-date details for postponements, cancelations, new locations and times. Watch emails for last minute and weather related changes.

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## Special Events/Cruises

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Check [Website](http://eastermasscorvetteclub.org) for details

- **10/9 Columbus Day Cruise!** Glen Cove Inn, Rockport, ME. Special rate of \$124 per night plus tax, must mention Eastern Mass Corvette Club. Rooms are still available. Questions: Organizer, Jim Gable, [jgablesr@yahoo.com](mailto:jgablesr@yahoo.com). Thanks, Jim!
- **10/13: Static Tuesday.** The Final Pizza!
- **10/18: Foliage Cruise** to Purgatory Chasm. Watch email and check website for details.
- This years **CHRISTMAS PARTY** is unfortunately being cancelled. Yes, we are bummed.
- Next year's **ANNIVERSARY PARTY** will be postponed from February 2021 to a date to be determined.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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# Club Member Birthdays

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[eastermasscorvetteclub.org](http://eastermasscorvetteclub.org)

# Happy Birthday

Joel Baker

Jack Cooney

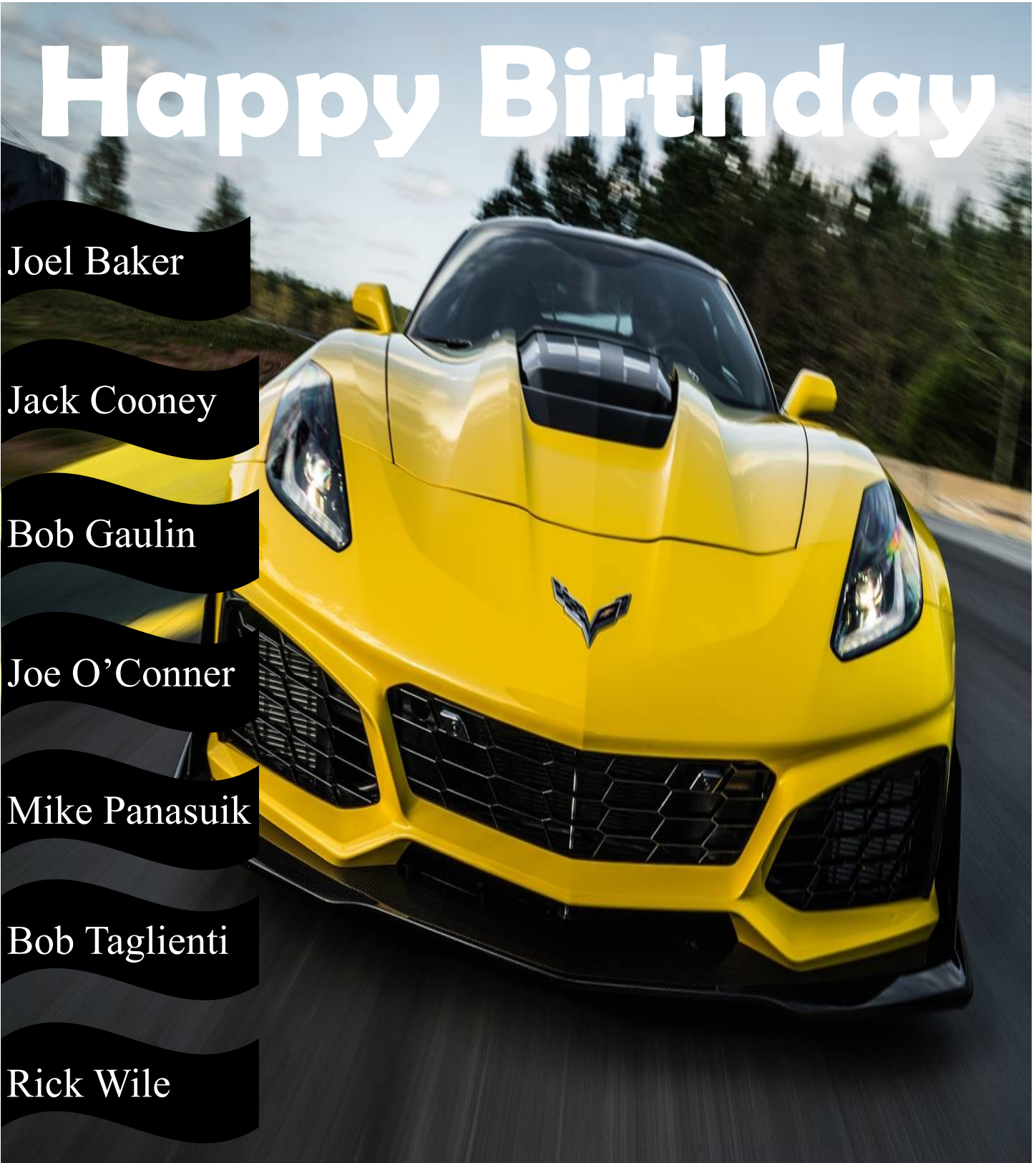
Bob Gaulin

Joe O'Conner

Mike Panasuik

Bob Taglienti

Rick Wile





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# Humor

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)



42 days until not my president, season 2 starts

I love that show





# Humor

[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)



Five months into his coma, Brad's wife finally finds the words to bring him back to life.





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# You CAN take it with you!

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Museum of American Speed History Museum

The Museum of American Speed is dedicated to preserving, interpreting and displaying physical items significant in racing and automotive history.

[www.museumofamericanspeed.com/](http://www.museumofamericanspeed.com/)

On this day in 1994, the ashes of 71-year-old George Swanson are buried (according to Swanson's request) in the driver's seat of his 1984 white Corvette in Hempfield County, Pennsylvania.

Swanson, a beer distributor and former U.S. Army sergeant during World War II, died the previous March 31 at the age of 71. He had reportedly been planning his automobile burial for some time, buying 12 burial plots at Brush Creek Cemetery, located 25 miles east of Pittsburgh, in order to ensure that his beloved Corvette would fit in his grave with him. After his death, however, the cemetery balked, amid concerns of vandalism and worries that other clients would be



offended by the outlandish nature of the burial. They finally relented after weeks of negotiations, but insisted that the burial be private, and that the car be drained of fluids to protect the environment. "George wanted to go out in style, and, indeed, now he will," commented Swanson's lawyer in a report from The Associated Press. "We agree that this is rather elaborate, but really it's no different than being buried in a diamond-studded or gold coffin."

According to the AP, Swanson's widow, Caroline, transported her husband's ashes to the cemetery on the seat of her own white 1993 Corvette. The ashes were then placed on the driver's seat of his 10-year-old car, which had only 27,000 miles on the odometer. Inside the car, mourners also placed a lap quilt made by a group of women from Swanson's church, a love note from his wife and an Engelbert Humperdinck tape in the cassette deck, with the song "Release Me" cued up and ready to play. The license plate read "HI-PAL," which was Swanson's go-to greeting when he didn't remember a name. As 50 mourners looked on, a crane lowered the Corvette into a 7-by-7-by-16-foot hole.

"George always said he lived a fabulous life, and he went out in a fabulous style," Caroline Swanson said later. "You have a lot of people saying they want to take it with them. He took it with him."





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# Member Submissions

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

Story and Photos by Keith E. Jacobson

The days are getting cooler and darkness is a little earlier each evening ... and we all know what that means. Our season, sadly, is drawing to a close. In many ways this will be remembered as the season that never was. With almost every major event being canceled we EMCCers were lucky to have numerous opportunities to get together thanks to social chair Bruce Kolovson and those that helped him.

Sunday, October 4, was sunny and the temperature was around 60°, I ambled up for a 9:00 AM, Cars & Coffee event at the Caffe Nero Andover. Cars kept rolling on in and the lot was packed. There wasn't a reserved area, it was find a space and park.

Lots of different types of cars and a few motorcycles. Lots of Corvettes and other interesting rides including a DeLorean, a pair of VW buses, Rolls Royce, Porsches, and more. An unexpected treat was seeing Pinch and Larry Lepore there. Everyone is trying to squeeze in those last few events before the big sleep.





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# Member Submissions

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)





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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## For the love of Vettes

Glenn Cosgro

Being a corvette lover since childhood and watching Route 66 on TV, I could not wait to buy one.

I sold my 1966 olds 442 and bought my 63 vette. At that time I was dating Patty and her fondest memory of that car is burning her legs on the side pipes before covers were installed. That was 54 years ago.

Then came my 69 vette after trading in my "70 "442. I turned that in for the family car after we were married and dreamed of the day I would once again own a Corvette.

After a trip in 2005 to Carlisle I was more determined to buy vette #3. After much searching I happened upon my 06 . It was a pleasure to meet Bill Schroeder at the gym and he was instrumental in getting me to join EMCC. So happy we did . Everyone is so inviting and fun to be around. We love the cruises and of course, the food!





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# Member Submissions

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Olde Post Office Pub

Words by Mal. Photos by Bob Gardner

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day for a cruise to North Grafton lead by Bob Gardner and his side-kick, Barbara. Bob lead us down Route 140 to the Olde Post Office Pub. We, as a Club have been to this venue in the past and it always proved to be excellent. Well, it lived up to it's reputation this time as well. There were 11 Vettes (19 people) taking this cruise.

We were greeted by the staff of the restaurant who had parking spots roped off just for us. A mini-car show. There was seating set up for us outside at tables adorned with umbrellas. The restaurant put together a menu just for us with some wonderful choices for our meal. Check them out on the picture of the menu. And.....what a nice touch with the yellow Corvette. We were treated like royalty and the food was outstanding.

There was a table of a few women with their male mascot at the end of the lot who were quite rowdy. Actually, they managed to laugh the entire time they were there. We know they had a great time.... Just saying.

After the meal, Bob had offered to take the group for a cruise around the Wachusett Reservoir, but many of the group decided to go shopping in the center of Grafton and some of the folks headed home.

Thanks to Bob and Barbara for a great event.

SMOKEN - Mal



### Welcome Eastern Mass Corvette Club

#### 1# Bone-In Fried Chicken Wings

Served with bleu cheese dressing 11.99  
Buffalo, Plain, Teriyaki, BBQ, Sweet Chili or Honey Mustard

#### Chicken Parmesan

Chicken breast breaded with Italian seasoned crumbs and fried, topped with marinara and mozzarella, served with penne marinara and garlic toast 17.99

#### Chinese Chicken Salad

Teriyaki chicken grilled or fried over mixed greens with crisp wontons, rice sticks, Mandarin oranges, roasted red peppers and scallions, honey ginger dressing 15.99

#### 10 oz. Angus Burger

Char-grilled to order, served with lettuce and tomato on a grilled bulkie roll, with French fries or coleslaw 11.99

#### Baked Haddock

Fresh fillet of haddock topped with buttery seasoned crumbs and baked,

served with choice of potato and vegetable 17.99

#### Grilled Chicken Sandwich

Grilled or fried, served with French fries or coleslaw 10.99

#### Corned Beef Reuben

Served grilled and hot on pumpernickel or rye bread with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing 12.99

\*Before placing your order, please inform your server if any person in your party has a food allergy. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, seafood, shellfish and eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions\*\*





# Member Submissions

[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## The Apple Gang Cruise

Words by Mal. Photos by Bob Gardner, Myriam Siraco & Rhonda Dutton

On September 27, EMCC cruised to Tougas Farm in Northboro., MA. What a beautiful day to pick apples and hang out with all of our Corvette friends. Bruce did it again; picked the perfect spot to enjoy a fall day full of fun. You can see by all of the pictures, Tougas Farm was a wonderful place. There were plenty of things to do on the farm. There were lots of animals in the petting area and many items to purchase. I hope everyone had a cider donut.

After picking apples, purchasing jellies, jams, candy apples, pumpkins and cider, fourteen of the folks who attended went to Grill 110. Our meal was excellent and there was the usual chatter at all of our tables. I am sure this will be a repeat trip in 2021..

SMOKEN - Mal





# Member Submissions

[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)





# Member Submissions

[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Burger Bar Cruise

Words by Bruce Kolovson. Photos by Bruce and Bob Gardner

Good turn out for our cruise tonight to KC's Burger Bar in North Attleboro. KC stands for Katie Cerrone. Daughter of Al Cerrone owner of Cerrone Chevrolet Buick GMC in South Attleboro. 1Sixteenclub members enjoyed Burgers, sandwiches, garlic Parmesan, sweet potato fries, and some enjoyed spiked milkshakes.





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# Member Submissions

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Uhlman's Ice Cream Cruise

Words and Photos by Bruce Kolovson.

Beautiful night for our cruise to Uhlman's Ice Cream stand in Westboro. We were joined by new member to be Rhonda Dutton. We all got a chance to chat with Rhonda and get to know her a little bit. Rhonda will be a nice addition to club. Welcome Rhonda!







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# Member Submissions

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Dennis Collins' Celebration of Life

Words by Mal

The Celebration of Life for Dennis Collins took place on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Due to the Covid rules of only a gathering of 50 including the staff, only 45 people were able to attend the actual event.

The Collins family made the celebration available to all of the Club members via ZOOM. The eulogies at this event brought a tear to our eyes.

It has been such an honor to have known Dennis. The event was wonderful and an honorable tribute to Dennis.

After the event, twenty-nine Corvettes were assembled in the parking lot of Lake Pearl for a drive-by Dennis' house where all of Dennis' family and friends gathered.

It was spectacular!



Jim Gable lead a group of those folks to Lorenzo's Restaurant to further celebrate Dennis.

I hope that everyone has viewed the drive-by on EMCC's FaceBook page.

I am so impressed and amazed at all the folks who took part in this very special event. Dennis was loved by us all and he will be greatly missed by us all. Dennis made a huge impact on this Club and will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace, my friend.

SMOKEN - Mal



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# Member Submissions

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Garage Envy!

Words and Photos by Gerry Criscenzo

Winter is coming and EMCC needed somewhere indoors to host our member meeting. At our last member meeting both Frank Fontana and Larry Colvin graciously offered to host our Oct 4th meeting in their garages. Larry said his was a three-car (Frank shed a little tear), so we voted for the larger space to comfortably hold more members. Sitting in his garage, all I kept thinking was "Dam, I have ramp up my garage e game!"





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# Newest Members

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Rhonda Dutton

The VP's Welcome

Please meet our newest member.....

During our October 4th Member Meeting, Rhonda Dutton was voted into our EMCC family. She was sponsored by Bob Hanson.

Rhonda's '07 C6 is her first Corvette. She has already attended several EMCC cruises and we can all tell that she will fit in perfectly with our merry bunch.

Let's all please welcome, Rhonda Dutton.

Gerry Criscenzo





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# Pies! Pies! Pies!

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)



Frank is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Frank is helping their charitable efforts with pies.  
Who doesn't like pie?

He promises that the pies from Mann Orchards are the most delicious pies you will ever taste.

If you don't think so, he will personally come and perform a Mexican hat dance for you. He's good but he knows you'll love the pies.

Please use the form on the next page to place your order or use the contact information for any questions.

**In all seriousness, Frank thanks you in advance.**



Sponsored by the Sacred Heart Council 1847 - Franklin, MA



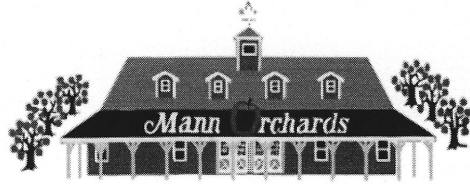
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



CASH CHECK CHARGE

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Freshly Baked by



Apple • Pumpkin • Blueberry • Pecan

**Order Pies** for your Thanksgiving table.

**Donate Pies** to the Franklin Senior Center, our community center for our elders, for their Thanksgiving table.



**Order pies in Lower Church after all Masses weekend of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> or online NOW thru Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.KofC1847.org](http://www.KofC1847.org)**

Pickup at the CCD Office on Tuesday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2-8 PM

Proceeds to support the ongoing charitable efforts of the Knights of Columbus.

Contact: Jim Campbell - 508.848.8681 - JimT.Campbell1958@gmail.com

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



Quantity

Apple \_\_\_\_\_  
Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_  
Blueberry \_\_\_\_\_  
Pecan \_\_\_\_\_

**Donated Pies** \_\_\_\_\_

CASH CHECK CHARGE

SIGNATURE AT PICKUP \_\_\_\_\_



**TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL PIES** \_\_\_\_\_

@ \$15<sup>00</sup> each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return form with check to:

Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus Council 1847



Mr. Frank E. Fontana  
79 Jordan Rd.  
Franklin, MA 02038-1255



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# Winter is Coming!

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## Laying Her Down for a Long Winter's Nap!

Words by Gerry Criscenzo

Ask 100 different car-people how to store a car for the winter and you'll get 100 different methods from practical to paranoid.

I'm a formally A.S.E. certified mechanic and managed dealership service departments for over ten years and this came up every year for customers storing cars.

I check forums for new tips and tricks but it's mostly all the same common sense methods. Depending on how cold it is outside or climate controlled your storage space is, some of these will matter more.



- **Fluids**

- Oil: Change it. People debate over how corrosive dirty oil is. An oil change is cheap insurance.
- Coolant: Make sure the mix is correct and it's been properly maintained
- Windshield Washer: Make sure it's not water
- Fuel: Fill the tank. Before you fill it, add the appropriate amount of "Stabil" fuel stabilizer. Get it at auto parts stores and Home Depot (with mowers, chain saws, etc).
- All other fluids: if you're maintaining at proper intervals, no worries.

- **Tires:** Few schools of thought here. People will put car up on jack-stands: great for long/years of storage but for a few months, no need for jack stands. I've never had a problem with flat-spots. Make sure, however, they're inflated to max PSI.

- **Battery:** Use a battery tender for computerized cars (C4 and up). Disconnect for non-computer electronics (C3-1) but you'll need it connected and with a battery tender if you've added any electronic accessories like an alarm, stereo, etc. Some people will swear they've let their car sit for months without a battery tender without any problem. I've never had that experience. Two-three weeks and my battery is dead in my C6 and my metal cars.

- **Mice:** Don't let them drive the car. Keep them out with dryer sheets inside the car and moth balls in netting bags in your engine compartment and around the car. If you eat in your car (Stop it!) vacuum out the crumbs. Good idea to also plug your exhaust with some rags.

- **Rising moisture:** Park your car over a plastic tarp. Why? In an enclosed space, moisture can rise from concrete and settle on your under chassis, suspension, etc. More important for older cars.

- **Car cover:** If your car is being stored outside, don't skimp. A cheap car cover or a tarp (eek!) will ruin your paint. Some people will cover their cars when inside to keep dust off. A bit OCD, but ok. Get a California Brush instead. It's way less work.

- **Starting car occasionally:** Unless you can drive it or let it run and rev it, don't. Moisture builds in the exhaust, sits there and will rot the exhaust from the inside out. If you do plan to start it, leave yourself a note on the dash about the exhaust rags!

- **Wash/wax:** Not really necessary but you can zoom out in the spring looking awesome!



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# For Sale!

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## 2009 Harley Davidson 1200 Sportster.

Only 1,065 miles. This is basically a brand new motorcycle, in brand new condition, which has just been broken in.

Chrome chain guard, chrome sissy bar, recent battery. Registered and ridden every year but health and family issues have prevented more use.

Time to go to a good home.

Starts, runs, and drives very well.

\$4,995.

lcolvin3@yahoo.com





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# EMCC Merchandise

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)



Order all EMCC merchandise, hats, clothing, bags, etc, directly from Tri-Valley Sports.

You can also bring your own items for them to customize with our EMCC Club logo, your name, etc.

**106 Main St. Medway, MA 02053, 508-533-5080**

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The National Corvette Museum's offers many types of Corvette apparel.

Visit the store at [corvettemuseum.org](http://corvettemuseum.org)



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Want to add bling to ANYTHING?

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/glendasglitzydesigns/>.

Order directly from Glenda or you can send her your favorite item(s) and she will "bling" it for you. Even masks! Just ask Ma!







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# Editor's Note

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[www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org](http://www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org)

## What a crazy ride!

By VP and Publisher/Editor, Gerry Criscenzo



Well, here we are, October, and nearing the end of another N.E. Corvette season with some of us already planning to put our babies to bed for a long winter's nap. And though, none of us could have possibly imagined what lay ahead as we pulled the covers off our sleeping Corvettes this past March, we ended with a season of memories we will never forget.

In March, we may have lost hope and wondered how cruises, or life, could ever be the same. But all we needed to do is learn how to be safe. And mention Ice Cream. This Pandemic was not going to keep us from ice cream. It was not going to stop us from Pizza Static cruises and certainly not from lobster rolls. We overcame the adversities of masks and staying safe because we discovered there is strength and power ... in food. And relationships.

Initially, our cruises were just cruises to nowhere; tests, really, to see how long we could cruise without bathroom breaks. Not really an issue for the guys, but we needed to consider our ladies because nobody wants to be sleeping on the couch at our age. Our backs aren't what they used to be.

Even with the restrictions of this crazy year, we managed to cruise and our cruises were just as much fun as years past. I joke about the food but it's really about good friends, family, creating memories. Okay, for some it's the food.

Reflecting back, I am grateful for being able to get out, for not getting sick, for surviving, and for the camaraderie of this group. I'm grateful for the extra Fit-Bit steps when I forgot my mask and had to walk back to my car because I park in the next town over.

We even gained new members during all this, proving our social resolve and human need to be with others like ourselves.

We also lost dear friends (not to Covid). Saying goodbye in the way we would have wished was impossible, so we said goodbye and honored them in the only heart-felt ways that we could.

I believe the memories that we created this year will be remembered forever and like no others, because of what many of us had to endure and how grateful we were to simply see each other; grateful to simply enjoy each other's company. Grateful to simply get outside when, in the beginning, we wondered how life as we knew it could ever be possible again.

We are by no means out of the woods. Not even close. But I believe we've gotten a taste of what our new normal might be and it really isn't so bad as long as we continue to be safe and continue to believe in building lasting friendships.