

Vette Gazette

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July 2020

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President's Message

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Happy Summer! Hopefully, we will be able to continue to enjoy our Corvettes and have opportunities to do more events as Massachusetts opens up and attempts a recovery from COVID-19.

I could not be more proud of Eastern Mass Corvette Club. We have joined together and checked on those who are housebound, made calls, done drive-bys and attended as many of our events as possible. We have been able to have lunch events as well as ice cream runs. Our Social Chair, Bruce, is planning quite a few more events, so stay tuned to your emails. Most every Thursday we have something planned.

Our Tuesday nite Static Cruise has never been so successful. We are averaging about 27 Vettes per event. There are more and more spectators each week and members are getting to know each other better. One nite I counted 34 Vettes. Wow! What a great opportunity for all of us to "get out" and enjoy our toys. Remember, second Tuesday is pizza night. Thank you to all for being mindful of social distancing and wearing masks. A special thank you to **Steve S** who has taken charge of Static Cruise and comes every week with the Club banner

which he so proudly displays and his infamous table and supplies. You are doing a great job, Steve.

During this unusual Corvette season, we managed to vote in four new members to the Club:

- 1. Jack Cooney of Needham who is sponsored by Keith Jacobson (1995 blue coupe)
- 2. Barry McColgan of Walpole who is sponsored by Joel Baker (2019 Red ZO6)
- 3. Stephen Boccuzzi of West Roxbury who is sponsored by Mike Keefe (2019 White Coupe)
- 4. Fran Blake of Ashland who is sponsored by Gerry Crescenzo (1967 Yellow Convertible)

You have probably seen and met most of these people at the Static Cruises. Welcome! Please take a minute to say hello to them and welcome them.

As you know, the Celebration of Life for Dennis Collins has been postponed to September 26th. Please make a note of it.

I would like to take this time to pay a tribute to some of our members/officers/chairs:

Thank you goes out to **Bob Gardner** who is and has been a wonderful advisor to me as a new President. Bob is always ready to answer questions and give quality advise. Bob also manages to keep track of everyone's birthday and makes sure he gives a birthday shout-out on FaceBook with some great pictures. Speaking of pictures, Bob is always available to find pictures of someone and to share them when he can. Thanks so much, you are truly appreciated.

Speaking of FaceBook, a thank you goes to **Kamera Keith,** who is in charge of our Club FaceBook page, for always personally posting to the Club FB page updates on Corvette information and for keeping us entertained with some of his postings. He keeps us on our toes.

I want to thank and recognize the wonderful job that is being done by **Bob Hanson**. Bob took on the position of Membership Chair shortly after he and Mary Helen joined the club. He has been very busy with all of our new members and a few folks who wrote to us regarding membership and we directed them to the Club in their area. Bob has made contact with members who were tardy on paying their dues and stayed with the tasks at hand until they were accomplished. Thanks so much Bob for the great job.

If you have any ideas for the Club or an event that you think might work for us, please let me know. We are looking for all the Club participation we can get.

We are hoping to be able to have a Membership Meeting soon. Although there is not a lot going on regarding the business of the Club, we need time to share ideas and have some formality.

Hope everyone enjoys/enjoyed America's Birthday! SMOKEN - Mal



Executive Board & Chairpersons

www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org

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

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

Secretary: Steve Silva

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



Club Calendar

<u>.easternmasscorvetteclub.org</u>

EMCC IS GO FLIGHT! Our Cruises are on but subject to "openings." REMEMBER, social distancing is STILL IN EFFECT!! Please wear your mask for everyone's comfort, including Static Cruises. We will hold our first 2020 Member Meeting on July 20. Our website has the most up-to-date event information for details, postponements, cancelations, new locations and times. Watch emails for last minute and weather

STANDING EVENTS

- **Lunch**: Every Wednesday at a different location, usually last minute, from a member's suggestion. Look for email or check our website.
- **Static Cruise:** We park, chill, and get to know more about each other. Every second Tuesday, the club provides Pizza.
- Thursday Cruises: Wild card. Check our website and look for emails
- Board Meeting: Last Monday of every month.
- **Member Meetings**: "Currently" check website and watch for emails. Meetings will be outdoors at a location able to host us. Please bring a chair.



Special Events/Cruises



You really don't want to miss any of these! Many are being planned right now but dates, locations and details are still subject to change due to Covid-19.

<u>Our website</u> is frequently updated and has the most up-to-date event information for details, postponements, cancelations, new locations and times. Please check before planning to attend or contact a Board Member.





Special Event

.easternmasscorvetteclub.org

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: DENNIS COLLINS

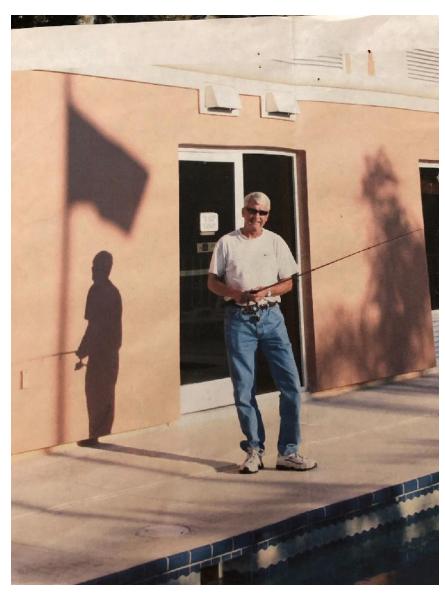
With Covid-19, all of our lives have been altered. The postponement of many events has been a very difficult process for many. One of the postponements that is very dear to the heart of EMCC members and the family of Dennis Collins is the Celebration of Life of one of our own, Dennis.

The **Celebration of Life for Dennis Collins** has recently been postponed again to **Saturday, September 26**th. We are all hoping that we do not have to postpone this event again. We, along with Dennis' family, are anxious to honor our dedicated, long time, loved member.

Please mark your calendars.

P.S. Thought you might like to see this picture of Dennis fishing (his passion) in the swimming pool. And, this picture of Dennis sitting among all of the Dale Earnhart items (another passion).

Mal





Club Member Birthdays

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Corvette Birthday!

www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org

June 30, 1953 National Corvette Day! Happy Birthday to America's Favorite Sportscar!

By Keith Cornett -Jun 30, 2020. Click here for complete Corvette Blogger Article

Sixty-seven years ago today, the first Corvette rolled off a temporary assembly line in Flint, Michigan and an American Legend was born. Looking at this picture, it's amazing to see how much the model has progressed over the years. We think that Harley J. Earl and Zora Arkus-Duntov would be very proud of Corvette's long-lasting legacy and its imprint on the American car culture.

In the early 1950's, Harley Earl, GM's head of styling, envisioned a low-cost American sports car that could compete with Europe's Jaguar, MG's and Ferrari. Codenamed "Opel", designers shrugged off a traditional steel body in favor of using a new technology consisting of molded fiberglass for rapid prototyping

Photo Credit: Larry Smith

and the very first example made its debut in January 1953 at the GM Motorama show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.



The car was a hit and Corvette production was originally slated to start in 1954 in St. Louis. However, company officials decided to fast track the Corvette into production based on the great reviews and public acclaim, and so 300 Corvettes were scheduled to be built in the second half of 1953.

The first Corvettes to come off that temporary line took several days to complete as workers bonded the various body panels together. The uniform design of the 1953 helped greatly with all cars being Polo White with the Sportsman red interior and a Black

canvas top. Each new Corvette came with a 2-speed automatic transmission mounted on the floor, a Delco signal-seeking radio, a 5,000 RPM tachometer, and a counter for total engine





The Corvette's original base price was set at \$3,498.00. However, the general public was hard-pressed to get one as most of the production was doled out to project engineers, GM executives, and other high profile cus-

tomers including Hollywood movie stars like John Wayne. In fact, a dealer notice issued in July '53 from the Central Office proclaimed: "No dealer is in a position to accept firm orders for

delivery of a Corvette in 1953."

Today's Corvette is completely different than the first model, yet they are connected with the



same sportscar DNA that started with Harley Earl's project "Opel" and progressed with Zora's belief that the car could (and should) dominate the world. The tradition of building a world-beating yet affordable sports car continues on today through Tadge Juechter and the 8th generation Corvette, and it all started 67 years ago today.



Humor

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That blue Ford has its sunroof open and it's about to rain...





Gene Ballinger June 13 at 5:04 PM \cdot Facebook for Android \cdot 🚱

Police are still looking for the smart ass who painted a tunnel under this bridge...

How fast was the little bastard going??? ⊖⊖⊖



Wife: Honey we need a truck

Me:





Humor

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Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.



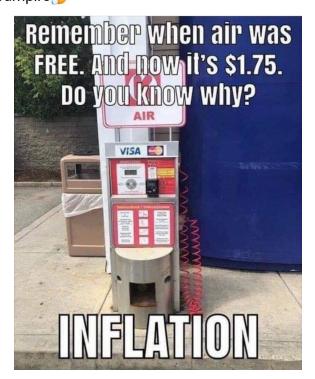






Don't worry be happy June 21 at 1:07 AM · ♠

Cher, left 29, right 73 ... A pact with the devil or vampire





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Tequila!

by Judy "Sunshine" Pitasi.

On Sunday, June 28, 2020, twelve members and their cars met at The Church of Saint Edward in Medfield, for a lunch cruise. The weather was perfect when we met. Social distancing and masks were our priority.





The cruise took about 30 minutes and winded first, north on Route 27 and then on a couple of back roads to Ashland, which was our destination.

Los Cabos Mexican Cantina is located in Ashland on Eliot Street. Caesar, the owner, ushered us in to the newly allowed "inside dining". We had the whole restau-

rant to ourselves. The food was excellent and the service was great!! Beers and Margaritas, salsa and chips, and many different choices of entrees. Safe to say no one went hungry.



My personal thanks to all who attended. Caesar is a personal friend of mine and I am grateful for such a turnout.













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Make a Wish!

Words by Mal Smith. Photos by Keith E. Jacobson

Member, Andy Bleadon, while in Florida, notified the Club that his granddaughter, Hayden, was celebrating her 13th birthday and would love to have a parade of Corvettes give her a drive-by at Andy's Medfield home for the special occasion. Well, consider it done.





EMCC joined together and 13 Corvettes graced her day on June 4th.

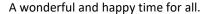


 $Hayden\ was\ out\ on\ the\ front\ lawn\ with\ some\ of\ her\ friends\ and\ family\ to\ watch\ the\ beautiful$

Corvette parade. Hayden was holding her birthday present, her new dog, and waving at all of us.

After the birthday event, Bill S lead 10 of the Corvettes through some beautiful back roads to C & L Ice Cream in Sherbon. Steve S set up the infamous table he carries in the back of his Corvette

and many of us sat around it in the back parking lot of the Ice Cream Shop and ate. Of course, some of the members had a dinner while some of us had dessert.













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Newport Auto Museum

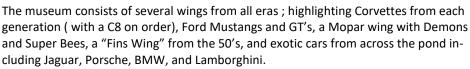
By Frank Fontana. June 13, 2020

The setting was a beautiful Saturday, perfect weather for a nice cruise to the Newport Auto Museum. We met at Luciano's in Wrentham. The highlight of the meeting was Tag pulling up with the club's first C8. He was very pleased with the new design and commented that it rivaled the Ferrari he has.

We had around 13 cars including guests from the Bay State Corvette Club.



We arrived at noon and were once again greeted warmly by their professional staff.



The facility is immaculate and has a ballroom available for parties and events.

After the visit, the group split up and went to lunch in Tiverton and Newport.

We proceeded to Newport and drove through a very busy city full of tourists finally able to enjoy a great summer day. Thanks to the members that participated; we had a great day and the staff thanked us once again for supporting the museum.

Frank







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A Day at the Museum

A Pictorial of the Newport Car Museum by Brian Lioseau





















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A Day at the Museum

























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CORVETTE STINGRAY (3LT Z51) vs PORSCHE 911 CARRERA S

Editorial by Bob Gardner based on

"CLOSER THAN EVER" by Scott Evans, MOTORTREND, 2/2020 https://www.magzter.com/article/Automotive/Motor-Trend/ **CLOSER-THAN-EVER**

Over the last months countless articles have been written about the 2020 Corvette. Almost without exception the professionals have sung its praises. Road tests are now common where in the beginning the cars were not universally available. In this article Evans compares the new Corvette with the Gold Standard Porsche 911. The two cars were examined from top to bottom and driven in a number of venues to achieve a true comparison. The Stingray



priced out \$35,000 less than the 911. And the 911 out-performed the Corvette by tenths of seconds on the track. There, that's the bad news. The rest is all good.

Overall, the Corvette was ranked over the Porsche. "No excuses, no compromises. The long-awaited mid-engine Corvette isn't perfect, but it's damn sure close enough."

The writer/tester found the cars to be virtually matched. They even came in matching red paint. The Corvette is slightly longer, lower, and wider. It's also heavier due in part to the LT3 package. The Stingray is weighted in the back (61% to the Porsche 64%). The Corvette 6.2-liter V-8 has 52 extra horses over the Porsche turbocharged flat-six. The first test was the straight-away. The Porsche hit 60 in 2.9 seconds. The Corvette did it in 2.8 "making it the quickest factory Corvette to 60 MPH in history". In the Quarter the Vette topped 123 MPH beating the 911 BY 1/10 OF A SEC-OND.



There's a lot in the article about forces cambers and nuances. If you want all that tail you could look it up. I'm not a gearhead nor a track junkie. I fall into the category described by the author as the "vast majority of Corvette owners". I've never driven a mid (or a rear) engine car, understeer and things like it are Greek to I leave on all the Nannys and just enjoy



the

In the Figure 8 the time-tested 911 out-pointed the Corvette, laying down laps almost a second faster. No real road course track was available so the folks at MT improvised with a 3.5 mile course. A number of professional test drivers, editors, and writers took turns in the two cars (who wouldn't miss a chance like that?). Again the Porsche proved superior, between 1.1 and .06 seconds faster. Over 3.5 miles! Top speeds favored the Porsche, too. Drivers complained about the Corvette's brakes and tendency to understeer. It was a learning experience for all. In short, "The 911 lets you focus on being a better driver, not driving the car better." (What does that mean? See "nuance" above!) On the other hand, "The Corvette makes you feel like you're in a supercar; the 911 makes you feel like you're part of a supercar." Ho hum. They tried the various Corvette driving modes concluding that the Sport mode was about equal to the basic driving mode of the 911. All said, "The Porsche may be a little quicker around a track, but there's no question which car you'd rather drive home."

The Stingray won kudos for its lack of engine noise over the Porsche as did all the fit and finish, while acknowledging the LT3 package was gorgeous with the best leather ever. All the junky plastic is gone and the seats are great. The Porsche comes in "a stark field of dark grays and blacks all finished in varying grades of plastic and piano black". The Corvette's infotainment center, dash, and rear-view camera came in for special praise. They even liked the steering wheel, now dubbed the "squircle". Stowage in the Porsche was marginally better but access to the Corvette's trunk was easier. So there!

Finally, after all this examination, poking and prodding, hard driving and listening, they decided that if those tenths of a second on the road course were SO important to you, you could go ahead and spend the additional \$35,000. Here's the author's summary, "Performance per dollar used to be an excuse to brush away the Corvette's shortcomings. Now it's a virtue. Exotic and attainable, it finally punches above its weight class in every category, not just one... The Corvette isn't just 'good enough' for the price. It's unbeatable."



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BBQruise

By Bruce Kolvson

We had 10 cars tonight for our cruise to PJ's Smoke "N" Grill (named after Mal). The weather was perfect. We met in the parking lot at Lake Pearl. In a little different twist we decided to order on line before we left Lake Pearl.



That worked really well as our orders were ready when we arrived. We had planned to eat at our cars in the parking lot. To our surprise they had an area with tables set up out front and said we were welcome to eat there. The Chinese restaurant a few doors down from PJ's was more then happy to supply some cold beer and delicious Mia Tias.

Thank you to all who attended tonight's cruise.



Additionally by Keith E. Jacobson



Club cruise night on Thursday, June 18, took us to PJ's SMOKE 'N' GRILL in Medway. Bruce and Sue led the way with a short cruise starting from Lake Pearl.

As we gathered Tag showed up with his C8, the first in the club, that had just over 200 miles on the odometer. A crowd of admirers gathered around the car with lots of questions for Tag.

It was a perfect evening for tops down or targas out. Everyone enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and all had positive reviews on the food. were 10 cars and 16 members for this enjoyable evening.





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So Much Static!

Article by Gerry Criscenzo. Pictures by Keith E. Jacobson

Whether its the weather, the new location, or people just itching to get out, the Tuesday Static Cruises have been wildly well attended this year. Far more so than recent years. We're averaging about twenty five cars each week. We park, sit and chill while passerby's stop and look at the cars and traffic honks horns (hopefully not angry horns).

And we got our first up-close-and-personal viewing of Bob Taglienti's new 2020 C8.

June 9th was Pizza night and the club buys pizza for members who attend. This was also a record number of pizza purchased from Family Pizza, who reserves our parking spaces. We've even recruited a few new member at the Static. You should really come down if you haven't already. Its been a lot fun.























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Surprise Cruise

Article by Mal Smith. Photos by Bob Gardner

It was June 13th and Judy, Cheryl and I had decided we were going to the Coachman in Bellingham for our first "eating out" event. First of all, the restaurant was excellent, the accommodations were wonderful and all the plantings and landscaping was breathtaking. Of course, the tab was quite spectacular as well. We had appetizers, a dinner and, of course dessert. Did I mention we also had two cocktails each. Yum! Yum!

When we left the restaurant, our plan was to visit/drive by the home of Bob and Deb Wodogaza just to wave hello and let Bob know that we were thinking of him and keeping him in our prayers. We were lucky enough to find Bob and Deb at home visiting with some Corvette friends. They came out to the yard and chatted with us for

enough to find Bob and Deb at home visiting with some Corvette friends. They came out to the yard and chatted with us for awhile. It was so good to see Bob and Deb and especially seeing Bob looking so good.



Bob has finished all of his treatments and will soon be tested to see if the treatments did the trick. Please keep him in your prayers.

Mal











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THE BEAST SPEAKS By John Dwyer



The Beginning:

There I was resting in a Norwood dealership on Route 1, 15 years older than anything on the lot, traded for a Mazda! WTF! Not good for my ego.

I was pushed to the most visible space as eye candy - at least they didn't tie those balloons all over me. I kept some dignity.

A month went by, there were a bunch of tire kickers, a few lame rides, youngsters put off with no power steering or brakes and a clutch only HE-MAN would like. Then this dude in a red IROC Camaro pulls in next to me. I had seen him before driving by a few times and giving me the eyeball.

As this guy puts his hand on my shoulder and asks, "How you doin?", the salesmen scrambled to see who first came out with my key. The quickest one comes out, the introductions are made, price stated and the offer of a ride given. Meanwhile, once John has my key, he's almost totally ignoring the salesman except for short answers and feeling up under all my edges for cracks or repairs. He took a quick look in the rear compartments and under the dash, then he opens the hood.

Surprise!! Top end of my engine is all aftermarket stuff. John pops off the distributor cap - two sets of points. He raises an eyebrow and starts rubbing on the block looking for numbers. Another surprise - the numbers are gone, but machining marks are there and double-hump "fuelie" heads...nothing from 1971.

John went inside to negotiate a long ride to bring me to a mechanic for a checkup and we leave the lot like grandma was aboard.

The first parking lot out of the dealership sight, he pulls over and climbs under me, what's up with that??? He's kicking me! Hard !!! All over my drive-line and suspension with those heavy steel reinforced work boots.

Once that assault was complete, he switched up and was then grabbing and shaking with both hands what he had just kicked the wee out of. I think I'm at the mercy of a lunatic...I swear he's trying to bench-press me.

John wipes his hands off on his jeans and starts me up. As we get back on the highway, he pats my dashboard and says, "Ok, let's see what you got". I almost ate some grass getting onto Rt 95, both ends. I handled nothing like an IROC.

He didn't use the brakes, just more gas, like driving in snow, a lot of gas. I knew right then I had a new home. If he's chancing on hurting me on a test drive, he's made up his mind.

I liked the way his butt cheeks grabbed my seat when we were slide-ways - a bonding moment. A bunch of brake tests and full throttle bursts in every gear on the way back to the dealer.

I don't think the IROC is going to be happy.

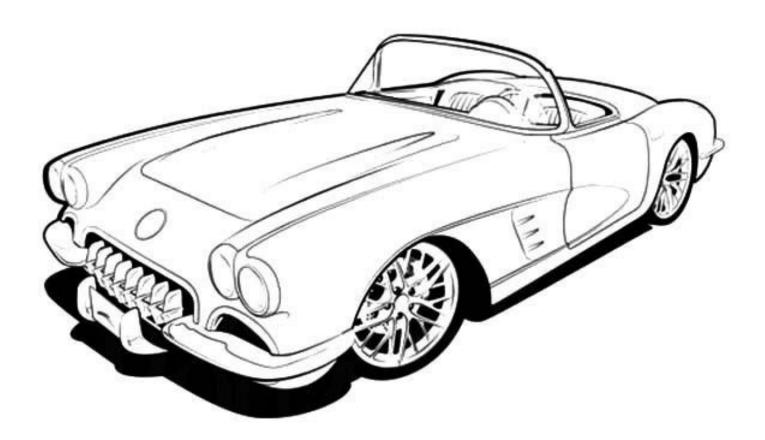


Fun Stuff

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Color Me!

Color it, customize it, whatever you like. Even have the kids/grandkids color it. Then scan it, email it in and if we have 10 or more entries, we'll make a contest out of it for a gift card. Have fun!





Sunshine

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Joel Baker

As most of you know, our founding member, Joel Baker, just had rotator cuff surgery at New England Baptist Hospital. He is home and doing well under the constant care of his wife, Maureen. Maureen is making sure Joel gets his exercise every day and keeps busy recovering.

Both Maureen and Joel have headed north to Maine to their summer vacation spot where Joel will continue his recovery. Of course, after a few weeks of R&R, he will be back this way for his PT.

Please keep him in your prayers.

Mal



Danielle McAuley



Kelsa Morrill and Mal Smith took a cruise to visit Danielle McAuley and were pleasantly surprised to find her looking great and in awesome spirits. In fact, Danielle made us a wonderful lunch.

Danielle has finished her radiation and is now going through another treatment every third week for quite a few more weeks. After the treatments, tests will let her know just how she is doing. Keep her in your prayers.

Danny has given me permission to post this picture which clearly shows how great she looks. She has asked that I also say hello to everyone from her and she wants to say thank you to all who have prayed for her, called her, texted her, sent her cards and kept her on their minds. She is very grateful to everyone in EMCC.

Mal



July Photo Contest

www.easternmasscorvetteclub.org

WINNER OF THE JULY PHOTO CONTEST! Bob Randall!

Thanks to all of you who submitted photo's. Robert wins a \$10 Gift Card to **Family Pizza** in Walpole for sharing a great memory. Thanks Robert and Congratulations.



All other Entries

































EMCC Merchandise



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

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

Visit the store at



Want to add bling to ANYTHING?

Visit

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







For Sale



One set of West Coast Corvette 3-piece chrome wheels. 19" front and 20" rear - 2 have minor curb rash.

Original price \$3,800 plus tax, I am asking \$800 o.b.o.

Stock C6 Z51 front brake calipers (no brackets) - asking \$50 o.b.o.



Please Contact: robertrandall123@yahoo.com 508-245-5856

Thanks, Bob

WANTED

(This was posted on our Facebook page)

Hi all, I'm so excited, looking to buy my 1st Corvette C4 or C5, can anyone recommend a good mechanic in the Worcester area that can check a potential car out? Any manual transmission cars for sale in the group? Trying to stay under \$13k, good driver quality, not looking for a project or a show car.

Thank you!!!

Tim Lewman timlewman@yahoo.com



Editor's Note

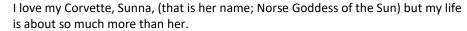
Gratitude

By VP and Editor, Gerry Criscenzo



I want to take this opportunity to express gratitude ... to be grateful for having joined the EMCC. This club is embracing, friendly, compassionate, and embodies what a social club is ... fun. No politics.

As a member, you can attend as many events as you wish but without any pressure to attend. That was why I joined.







My gratitude for Sunna pales in comparison for things that really matter, which are not "things." I lost my Dad in January and now my Mom, whom I care for, means so much more to me. I am grateful for her health.

That is my gratitude on a deep scale but recently, and probably like you, I've learned gratitude for life's smaller experiences.

Yes, a Martini from my favorite bartender would be great but ... over the past few months, have you ever wanted to hug a loved one, someone, ... anyone so badly? And when you can again, will you remember how much you missed that physical contact ... and will you feel grateful?

A hug may have seemed like a small moment but now many of us deeply realize how essential it really was/is.

I've digressed a bit from expressing my gratitude for being a part of and contributing to the EMCC but I am grateful for what I am learning from the long-standing members and even more grateful for having been accepted. I am grateful for having learned so much more about living with gratitude.

What are you truly grateful for?