



President's Message

WOW!!! March is almost here and there has been no real snow. What is going on? No matter what happens now...it won't last... even if we get a foot of snow. Four more weeks and we are into April showers.

I hope members, like me, have been able to get their Vette out and enjoy the February dry weather. I have had my car out multiple times to enjoy the clear roads and give her a good run.



The time is getting close to when all those polished cars will be emerging from hibernation. I ask all members to start thinking about what you would like to do this season. We are always looking for new places to go, places to eat, and of course if you have a favorite ice cream location please share it.

For those members who have not led a cruise there is nothing to it. You're just the first one in line leading us to one of your favorite spots and hopefully you know where you going. Don't worry if you take a wrong turn, there have been many who have (how should I say it) headed in the wrong direction. But the fun is getting there!

A reminder to all...2019 dues are now due! Also, our VP "SMOKEN" Mal is taking orders for our EMCC 35th anniversary shirt. We all want to look good in our club picture.

Our soup party is on for March 2nd, 6:00 pm at my home in Wrentham. All members and their guests are welcome. This is a great time to get out, meet friends, and enjoy many different kinds of soup. Even if you don't cook come and sample.

I look forward to seeing members at our next members meeting and discussing our cruising season plans. Please contact any of your board members should you have any questions or concerns.

As always I am “gdtogo” ... Steve Wilson, President



Welcome to the Bass Pro Shops Cruise with the Mass Cruisers

2019 Cruise Nights

2019 Bi-Weekly Thursday Cruise Night Schedule from 3:30 PM:
*Thursday bi-weekly cruise dates during August & September are subject to change if a conflict occurs with Gillette Stadium events or any New England Patriot's Thursday home game dates.
Enjoy your day of Bass Pro Shops cruising nostalgia and fun with the Mass Cruisers Auto Club.

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST*	SEPTEMBER*	OCTOBER
11 & 25	9 & 23	6 & 20	11 & 18	1*, 15* & 29*	12* & 26*	10 & 24



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“Snow Shoes”

Or Why the Stealth Pumpkin Spends the Winter in the Barn

Reported by Robert Gardner

Never ones to skip a challenge, the writers and drivers at Car and Driver Magazine decided to take a Corvette driving in the winter, in the snow. Just to make things interesting, they brought along a playmate. I mean, what's a snowball fight all by yourself? The location is Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The players are a 2017 Corvette Grand Sport and a Porsche 911 Carrera. Let the games begin.



The Porsche brought a twin-turbocharged 370HP flat-6 to the fight coupled to a seven speed manual. The Grand Sport was packing 460 V-8 horses and the seven speed manual transmission. For all the difference in horsepower, the difference in curb weight was less than 200 pounds. The Porsche was riding on 19" Pirelli winter tires. Our girl, well "riding" doesn't exactly describe it. The Vette wore Michelin Pilot Alpins. The crews traveled 550 miles north through minor snow squalls to Calumet, Michigan and the Keweenaw Research Center (KRC), a full-time service test facility including circle tracks, slippery grades, and even an ice rink. Oh, and lots of snow.

The question: Has modern traction control and advances in tire manufacture made it possible for high performance car owners to enjoy their cars year round? Drivers rated both low-slung vehicles "comfortable" on the drive up, despite the road conditions. "Even on unplowed highway sections, traveling at extralegal speeds, we felt as comfortable and safe as we would driving one of the countless Chevy Tahoes we passed." Sadly the sports cars spent most of the trip directly in the slushy spray of the SUV's. Once on the course, the Porsche though lacking 4-wheel drive, felt right at home. And this was without all the traction control engaged. Its best lap was seven seconds quicker than the best the Corvette could muster with an average speed of 37MPH. The Carrera's best speed was 53 mph, four mph better than the Corvette. (Big Deal!)



Our Girl was another story with the operational word being "trickier". Multiple combinations of the Performance Traction Management System were tried to little advantage. With all systems off, the Vette turned in its best time of 1:35.2 averaging 35MPH. The Corvette just couldn't transfer the power to the powder. "The Corvette desperately wanted to rotate, and taking a lap in it required constant vigilance to steering and throttle inputs." (Sounds like fun to me.) Here it comes. Wait for it. ***"Maybe there's a reason that, even now, most Corvette owners garage their cars in the***

winter.” (My highlights) Tire Rack reports that of all the tires it sold in the past year for C5 through C7 Corvettes, only one percent were winters.

Oh well. The Import went on to spank the Grandy in stopping and on the skid pad. Car and Driver was kind enough to fault the Michelins for this lack of performance. Back on dry pavement, the Vette beat the Porsche in stopping while wearing its summers. Finally, “Most likely, the arrival of the first Corvette in spring will remain a reliable harbinger for some years to come.” (Like I said)

THE PIZZA MAN !!!

This year the world's fastest pizza delivery vehicle will be sporting a new license plate ...



LOOK FOR IT AT OUR STATIC CRUISE NIGHTS AND CLUB SECRETARY, THE NOW RETIRED STEVE SYLVIA, JUST MIGHT HAVE A TRUNK FULL OF PIZZA.





NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

[From Gas Station to Space Station: NASA Exhibit Now Open](#)



On July 20, 1969, Commander Neil Armstrong made his way down the ladder of the Lunar Module. He looked down to see that the foot pad at the bottom of the ladder had sunk an inch or two into the fine powder of the Moon's surface, further confirming that the landing site was stable. He stepped down on to the pad, firmly gripping the handrail, and then made sure he could get back up to that first rung. The strut hadn't compressed on landing as fully as expected, which led to a 32-inch span that had to be cleared to get back up on the ladder. With only one-sixth of the gravity of Earth holding him down however, he found that the jump was easy enough to make, even in the 25-layer space suit.

As he stood on the precipice of the event that would define human achievement, he looked out over the lunar landscape. The chatter from Mission Control ended while the world waited for him to take that famous first step.

"Okay. I'm going to step off the LM now," he announced.

He then stepped onto the Moon to become the first human to set foot on extraterrestrial soil.

He has said that he hadn't decided on his first words until after the Eagle had landed. Over 238,000 miles away, 550 million people back home on the planet Earth watched the grainy images of history being made, listening intently for what he would say.

"That's one small step for ... man; one giant leap for mankind."

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of that epic achievement in human history, the National Corvette Museum, in conjunction with NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center, have put together an exhibit that will inspire and remind us that no goal is too far out of reach. The exhibit is called *From Gas Station to Space Station: How NASA Conquered Low-Earth Orbit*.

With Mars being the next giant leap for mankind, conquering low earth orbit is key to making that happen. Through the experiments and lessons learned on our journeys to the moon, along with all we've discovered from the Space Shuttle program, Skylab, and the International Space Station, we are already preparing for that next epic adventure. This exhibit explores the ongoing quest for interplanetary travel.

NCM Curator, Derek E. Moore, is looking forward to sharing this story with visitors to the Museum. "This exhibit shows where we've gone since going to the moon and tells the story of where that transformative moment in history has led us," Derek says. "We'll be looking at some stories about how one becomes an astronaut and look into how we landed on the moon, and how that is leading us into the future."

Derek is happy to also highlight a local connection to space travel. "Western Kentucky University has been kind enough to loan us Terry Wilcutt's actual flight suit, helmet, boots and glove. Col. Wilcutt actually went to Naval Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) and he has been on four Space Shuttle missions. Getting to see these artifacts up close will give our guests another fascinating look at this history."

To do this celebration properly in National Corvette Museum style, we decided to take it a step further and spotlight the fascinating connection between the space program and America's sports car.

It's no surprise to anyone that those people who push the envelope in performance aircraft and rockets would want to drive high-performance cars when Earth-bound. For many, the natural choice was Corvette. Alan Shepard started the trend when he drove a 1957 Corvette to the astronaut training base. Later, when he became the first American to travel in space on May 5, 1961, GM President Ed Cole gave him a new Corvette to honor his accomplishment.

Many believe that GM continued to hand out Corvettes to astronauts, but this was not the case. It was former Indy 500 winner, turned Florida Cadillac/Corvette dealer, Jim Rathmann, who perpetuated and cultivated this association by offering a lease agreement for \$1 to astronauts. Many of them from the Mercury Program thru Apollo 12 took Jim up on his offer, forever forging a connection between Corvette and the space program.

"Rathmann just got it," Derek says. "Being a bit of a thrill seeker himself as an accomplished race car driver, he saw Corvette as the perfect car for people who live on the edge. The sleek and fast look of the Corvette went with the personalities of the astronauts, while the power and reactive way that Corvettes handled, appealed to those who have been test pilots and fighter pilots. The fact that it is America's sports car just completes the picture. Rathmann's forward thinking on this wound up promoting Corvette at a time when the space age was in full throttle. To honor that aspect of the story, we're bringing in a few of those cars as well."

"We also plan to tell the story of Betty Skelton, who had a fascinating role when it comes to Corvette and those early days of the space program. Most Corvette fans already know that she liked to push the limits and that she was a real pioneer in challenging so many male dominated roles. She did it by *doing*, setting land speed records, paving the way for women in auto racing, aviation and even astronautics. In fact, she became the first woman to go through NASA's rigorous physical and psychological tests. These were the same tests used to qualify the Mercury 7 Astronauts. She did it to prove that it could be done by a woman. On the cover of LOOK magazine, there she was in a pressure suit and a helmet, next to the headline "Should a Girl be First in Space?" Who knows how many women that Betty has inspired by her example? We hope this exhibit will encourage everyone in the school groups that come through the Museum, to go after their dreams too, and literally reach for the stars."

To learn more about this story, please make plans to go through *From Gas Station to Space Station: How NASA Conquered Low Earth Orbit*, now in the Exhibit Hall running February 14th – June 30th, 2019

Eastern Mass Corvette Club



Richardson Black Cap

\$15.00



Richardson White Cap

\$15.00



Sport-Tek Short Sleeve Dri Fit Tshirt

\$15.00



Charles River Polo

\$30.00



Charles River Crosswind Sweatshirt

\$35.00



Denim Shirt

\$35.00

Order Online



<http://tinyurl.com/mxapf5z>

Tom Sager | (508) 533-5080 | tom@tri-valleysports.com

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Larry Colvin	March 28
Richard Marcus	March 30
Peter Musto	March 7
Nicole Rutkowski	March 1
Frank Tarara	March 20
David Yee	March 26



Deadline for the gazette is one week before the board meeting...I will try to accommodate late submissions ... Thank you

EMCC Membership

As of February 2019 we have 49 paid members, 2 associate, and 3 honorary

Next Board Meeting

Monday – February 25th at 5:30 PM

at Conrad's, 905 Main Street, Walpole

Come early to enjoy dinner & schmoozing

Next Business Meeting

Monday – March 4th at 7:00 PM

at Conrad's, 905 Main Street, Walpole

Come early at 6:00 to enjoy dinner & schmoozing



**“WHERE YOU COME FOR THE CARS ...
BUT STAY FOR THE PEOPLE”**

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

**We meet at 7:00 PM on the first Monday of every
month at**

Conrad's - 905 Main Street, Walpole, MA

PLEASE JOIN US !!!

**E.M.C.C.
P.O. Box 291
Medfield, MA 02052**

WEBSITE: easternmasscorvetteclub.org

IN THE BEGINNING

Some members may not know anything about the origins of the Eastern Mass Corvette Club. Back in the day there was the Bay State Corvette Club (BSCC). Although they had some fun events, as can be seen by this photo of BSCC founder Dr. Art Norley's '67 coupe loaded up with beer for what was Joel and Maureen Baker's first rally with the BSCC...and they came in dead last. The event took place on the Cape and was named the Triskaidekaphobia Rally (fear of the number 13). The 13th year of the rally. After participating in the club for a while Joel, Maureen, and three other members decided that the philosophy of the BSCC wasn't for them and left to form EMCC.

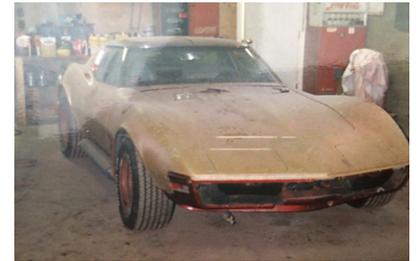


EMCC will be celebrating it's 35th anniversary this year...thanks to these five people. If you enjoy the club say thanks to the founders. Now a few words from Joel ...

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Story and Photos by Joel Baker
Additional information from
KEEPIN' TRACK OF VETTES magazine

I had a 1974 Camaro Z28 that D&D Body Shop had painted red. The dealer I bought it from spilled battery acid on the fender and it needed to be repaired. D&D Auto Body in Norwood repainted it. Then I hit a tree with Z28 and I had it towed back to D&D. The insurance company totaled the Z28 and I bought my Corvette from D&D. He painted it Candy Apple Blue over silver paint and put it in the World of Wheels car show in 1980... it took 1st place for paint. Actually,

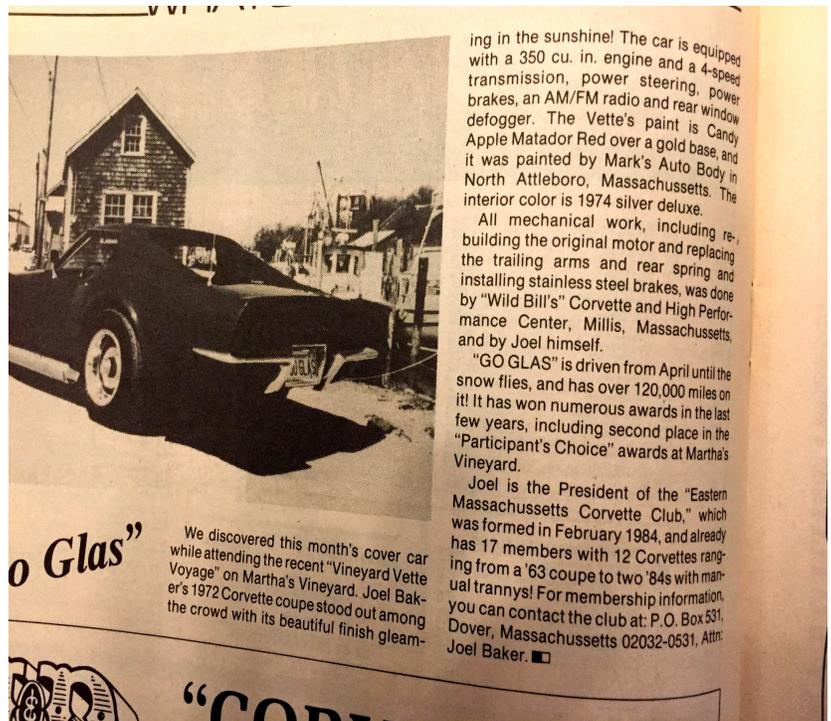
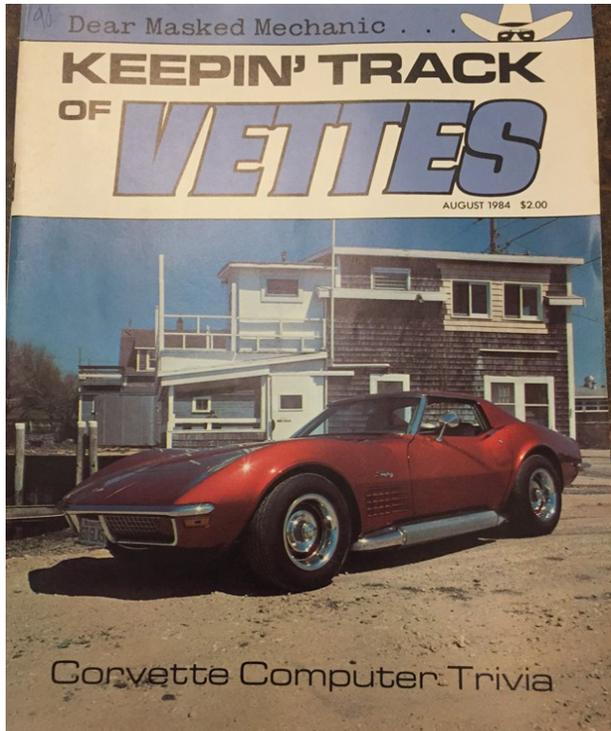


the bill of sale says that I bought it from the original owner who is a fellow football coach of Jim Gable.

I painted my car a total of six times. With Jim Gable painting it Intense Blue Pearl in 1999. The painting process takes about 50 hours to strip a car of its paint. First, you put a plastic tarp down and then you drive your car on it. Next you put the stripper on with a brush going in one direction.

After leaving it on for about 20 minutes you take a plastic scraper and go in one direction

and remove the paint which drops on the tarp. You do the whole car. This is followed by sanding the entire car. It's a lot of hard work. There was one time I striped my car with a razor blade.



JOEL'S CAR TODAY

Photo from the club's fall foliage tour to the Grafton Common



PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON

A FEW WORDS FROM THE VICE PREZ

By "SMOKEN" Mal Smith

I am looking forward to serving you as your Vice Prez for another year. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for making EMCC even better than it is already. We are looking for members to step up and sponsor an event for the upcoming season. Please let one of the officers know if you would like to sponsor an event.



As many of you know, I am taking orders for our 35th anniversary polo shirts. Seventeen shirts have already been ordered and it would be great to get everyone in the club to order this special edition shirt which will be one of our official club shirts. The cost of the shirts is \$30 each. The men's sizes seem to run true to size, but the woman's sizes run small. Shirts will be available at the meeting so you can try them on to make sure you get the right size. I suggest the women purchase a size larger than they usually wear. Please prepare to pay for your shirts at time of ordering. I will be taking orders at the upcoming meeting so please have your payment then. Our 35th Anniversary Party is August 4th.

Hope to see everyone at the Annual Soup Party on March 2nd which will be held this year at the home of our Prez, Steve Wilson and the First Lady, Sherry.

SEE YOU ON THE ROAD

We are all counting the days. As I write this, SIRI says 26 days until spring, 38 days until April 1, 48 days until April 11...the first Mass Cruisers/Bass



Pro event, and 52 days until the Boston Marathon. Yes, the season is almost here. I confess somewhere around January I got a bad case of CCF...Corvette Cabin Fever. I had to go out and sit in my car. Every once in a while I would go out pull back the cover and check for varmints. Although, I caught many in traps none in the Vette, as far as, I can see.

Last season I attempted to attend more and different events and I did. This season I am going to attempt to do the same. It never ceases to amaze me how friendly people are at car events and the Corvette always seems to get some attention. For those of you who follow the club's Facebook page I will attempt to post upcoming non-club events, as well as, club events. If you know of a show or cruise night please let me know so that I can get the word out if people want to attend. My philosophy is "the more the merrier."



I think it was Mark Twain who said ... the more I participate in the club the more I get out of it...maybe not...but I know it is true for me.

As always thanks to those who have contributed to this issue:

Steve Wilson for getting his comments in early so that I can start on the gazette.

Bob Gardner for letting us know about snow shoes.

"Pizza Man" Steve Sylvia, retired ... because pizza season is coming up and I want to be on his good side.

Joel Baker for surprising me with his comments and for founding this club.

Marvelous Mal for keeping all of us up to date on club goings on.

HOPE FULLY IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE I ...

SEE YOU ON THE ROAD ... "KAMERA" Keith Jacobson

LAST LAUGHS



Save The Wave