

The Capital City Corvette Club of Lansing, MI was formed in 1958 and has continued a tradition of fun and fellowship for fifty five years. Club members gathered recently at the historic state Capitol Building which was built between 1872 and 1878. In 1992, the National Park Service designated the Capitol a National Historic Landmark for its architectural significance and restoration.



The Capital City Corvette Club is a charter member of the National Council of Corvette Clubs and is designated as club number MI-003. When the club was formed in 1958, Jim Hoppin was its first president. Jim was also secretary for NCCC when it was formed in 1959 and was instrumental in creating the NCCC steering wheel logo. Jim Hoppin continued his role with NCCC by serving as president in 1962 and 1963. The club was delighted to have Jim as a guest speaker at one of our monthly membership meetings in 2011 and he was able to join us for our photo.

When the NCCC convention was held in St Louis in 1961, thirty three members of the Capital City Corvette Club made the trip in twenty three Corvettes. In 1962, the convention was held in Lansing, MI and hosted by the Capital City Corvette Club. The July 1962 issue of "Blue Bars" featured an article about the Capital City Corvette Club and the upcoming convention. Their guest speaker was Zora Duntov who was accompanied by his wife, Elfi. Participants caravanned in their Corvettes to the assembly plant in Flint, MI.

Other club members also played an active role in NCCC. Art Miller was NCCC president in 1964 and 1965. Gary Cross was president in 1966. The NCCC President's Award was given to Darwin Thomas in 1964 and to Gary Cross in 1965.

The club's first sponsor was Lee MacGillivray Chevrolet. The early meetings were held at the dealership which allowed the members to use the

service bays to wash and work on their Corvettes. A real plus during Michigan winters! Early club members enjoyed car shows, rallies and racing. Some of them even raced their Corvettes on frozen Lake Lansing. Josh Joslin has a 1963 Corvette that he raced at Virginia International Raceway, the SCCA Divisional at Meadowdale and the Road America 500 in Elkhart, Wisconsin.

The Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation had a close relationship with General Motors and the early Corvette clubs because Owens –Corning was producing the body panels for the Corvette. Members of the Capital City Corvette Club traveled to their manufacturing facility for a tour. Owens-Corning gave an annual award to the club that had shown the most enthusiastic support of the Corvette hobby. Capital City Corvette Club was given a Steuben crystal bowl in 1961 and 1962 in recognition of receiving this honor.

Currently the club's 101 members enjoy a wide range of activities including car shows, rallies, parades and road tours, which typically result in a unique dining experience. We host numerous events to raise funds for local charities such as VFW National Home for Children, the Greater Lansing Food Bank and the Potter Park Zoological Society. The club sponsors two scholarships at the local career center for young people who are continuing their education in the automotive field.

The Capital City Corvette Club has touched many lives in the past fifty five years. Its current members look forward to continuing our rich legacy of friendships, service and the enjoyment of Corvette ownership.



*Photographs by Ted Lasher
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Capital City Corvette Club – Celebrating 50 Years of Corvetting!

by Sandy Bechtel

1958 – 2008

It's true what people say – time flies when you're having fun!
Capital City Corvette Club is 50 years old this year. Let's celebrate!

In 1958, a group of Lansing-area Corvette enthusiasts joined together to share their love of this American sports car. Although time has dimmed many memories, it is a well know fact that Mr. Steve Spinrad was instrumental in the formation of the club.

Early membership in the club was mostly limited to men. Women weren't encouraged to join, because it was assumed they didn't drive hard enough. Early "meetings" revolved around working on cars and going out for a bite to eat afterwards. Wives soon tired of their husbands being gone. They began to attend meetings. It wasn't long before the club became more organized and held monthly meetings. Club activities focused on racing, rallies, and concourse shows.

As interest in the Corvette grew nationally, in 1959 our club along with five others (including the Corvette Club of Michigan) formed the National Council of Corvette Clubs. Although the original members of the NCCC were all small clubs east of the Mississippi River, there are now more than 269 clubs nationwide. We're club 003 -- CCM is club 006. Kudos to Steve Spinrad and the original membership for having such vision.

Did you know?

- Prior to forming our club, local Corvette owners raced their cars on Lake Lansing during the frozen winter months.
- MacGillivray Chevrolet was the club's first sponsor.
- Our club members used to race their cars on the docks at Mackinaw City.
- We have a sidewalk brick at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Don't forget to look it up the next time you visit the museum.
- We once had a club drink – the Oscar. Here's the recipe:

1 Fifth	Vodka
1 Fifth	Gin
1 Pint	Wild Cherry Brandy
1 Pint	Grenadine
2 Lg. Cans	Sweetened Orange Juice
2 Lg. Cans	Unsweetened Pineapple Juice

Mix ingredients in a large pail. Serve over ice. (Remember – drink responsibly.)

- CCCC helped write the National Council of Corvette Clubs' original by-laws.
- The Corvette Club of Michigan is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Congratulations!

