



The Found Caravan Corvette Club, Inc.

CLUBVALES

Volume 15

September 2007

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Welcome New Members: Harry and Elaine

Congrats to Nicole on her new 93 Anniversary Coupe

Thank you and God bless our troops. Please keep our soldiers and their families in your prayers.



June 6-8, 2008

MY SURVIVOR SURVIVES CARLISLE

By Doug Hoffman

What seemed like a "been there, done that" exciting and fun filled repeat of Corvette Carlisle suddenly became a nightmare.

We had a very casual and enjoyable cruise down with the Found Caravan Corvette Club led by Beef and followed up with my Avalanche towing my '67 big block 28,000 mile unrestored original Vette. In between were several other members including Joanne with her recently acquired '93 Vette. We arrived late Thursday afternoon greeted by sunny but relatively cool weather for Carlisle. I picked up my preregistered car corral passes at Gate 3 and unloaded my Vette and made my way infield to what would become a very fortuitous if not lucky parking space on the infield. My Vette would remain there until it was removed at 12:30 AM, Sunday morning.

After setting up my Vette in the Car Corral I then ventured out to find the Hampton Inn where I was sharing my room with my long time 55-57 Chevy Club buddy Gary Pronesti and his friend J.D. Purvis, who was one of the original founders of Bloomington Gold. Gary and J.D. had a vendor space to hawk some rare Vette parts like an original NOS fuel injector system (complete) and many rare pieces of literature that J.D. picked up from his association with GM over the years. I then returned to Harrisburg to pick up Gary at the airport getting back to the hotel at midnight.

Friday morning came quickly and we were on the field by 8AM after outsmarting the traffic and with J.D.'s VIP pass I was able to park the Avalanche on the infield to help Gary set up his vendor space. The weather was perfectly clear and promised to be more on the hot side, compared to Thursday. Corvette Carlisle began buzzing with its usual excitement and activity with the greatest Corvette gathering in the world. On my way to set up my '67 Vette display I found Beef and the Club's tent which was already filled with food, and a circle of lawn chairs with members chatting about that day's events.

Saturday's weather was a mirror image of Friday's only hotter and the beehive of activity on the fairground was magnified as the weekend spectator crowd grew with Corvette lovers who couldn't take Friday off from work. I spent both days talking to tire kickers and serious potential buyers for my Vette and just enjoying Corvette Carlisle. The day wound down between 5 and 6 O'clock. I then made my way down to Gary and J.D.'s vending booth to help them put away their parts and literature.

Their booth was next to two ladies who were selling Mother's wax products. They gave them some space in their trailer to store some of the more valuable stuff. We spent about half an hour loading and storing. The weather was still very hot and sunny. Around 7 O'clock we headed to the hotel which was about 5 miles away for a shower before dinner.

As I walked from the Avalanche to the hotel I noted a dark sky over towards the fairgrounds and even though it looked ominous, I just figured it was the thunderstorm rolling in that the weatherman had predicted. About twenty minutes later the thunderstorm reached the hotel. As I watched it from the hotel window the initial



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Upcoming Events

September 23, 2007—Gary Enck's Car Show in Cooperstown, NY

September 22, 2007—Corvette America's 30th Anniversary (visit the Corvette America site for more info)

September 28, 29, 2007—Vettes to Vets, Bedford, MA

October 6, 2007—VIP Show at the Cider Mill, Broadalbin.

December 1, 2007—Christmas Party

June 6—8, 2008—Cruisin' Around the Mountains

Check the Website for Hotel Reservations and schedules for these upcoming shows.

Don't Forget ... make your reservations for the Christmas Party on December 1, 2007 and Cruisin' Around the Mountains— June 6 - 8, 2007 at The Hotel Saranac — these reservations can always be cancelled. Call 518-891-2200 for reservations.

Adirondack Corvette Club has said they will kick our butts this year at the VIP show in Broadalbin. Let's prove them wrong. We will meet at 7:30 at Dunkin Doughnuts in Saranac Lake, exit 30 rest-stop approximately an hour or so later. Then cruise off to Broadalbin.

Congrats to the following winners:

Third year in a Row Carlisle CCA Club Participation

Found Caravan Corvette Club—runner up in Club Participation—Lake Placid Car Show

C6—Lake Placid Car Show

1st—Beef Bevilacqua

2nd—Jim Sayles

3rd—Doug Lancto

C5s

2nd—Dick and Lesley Lyon

3rd—John Ellis

C4s—2nd—Joanne Bevilacqua

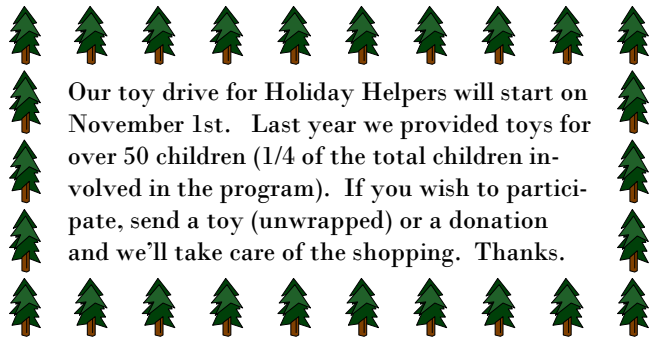
C3s—1st Tom Bovee

3rd Sharon Lancto

C2s—2nd Place Lisa Bovee

Lake George Show—

C6s—Doug Lancto 1st Place



Our toy drive for Holiday Helpers will start on November 1st. Last year we provided toys for over 50 children (1/4 of the total children involved in the program). If you wish to participate, send a toy (unwrapped) or a donation and we'll take care of the shopping. Thanks.

For Sale—1993 Anniversary Edition Convertible with less than 8000 miles. Contact John Ellis at jtellis@northnet.org for more information.

Wanted: Corvette Die Cast Polo Green C4 Convertible with Beige interior—any size.

C5 Coupe in Bowling Green Metallic—if you see one— Let Joanne know. joanne@vettes1.com.



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Doug, Pam and Joanne show their winnings from Lake George.



Bill Riddervold, of Adirondack Corvettes, receives his "Official License Plate" for Cruisin' 2008



Barry, Jim and Beef show their "Official FCCC" Uniform in Carlisle.



"I am not drying this car off one more time." In Lake George.



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The Found Caravan Corvette Club, Inc. sm, a New York State non-profit corporation, was founded by Joanne and Michael Bevilacqua with the sole purpose of having Corvette friends from all over, getting together to share stories, traveling down the road, and sharing their experiences, without the hassles of meetings, rules and regulations. We have only one rule ... show up, have fun and go home!

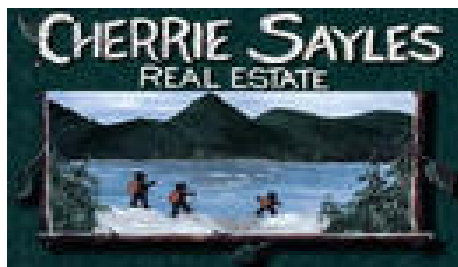
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www.foundcaravan.net

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pit in my stomach started to intensify as I saw the ever-increasing wind whip around the trees in the parking lot. At one point the thought of a pending tornado started to run through my mind as the skies continued to darken and leaves and debris blew through the hotel parking lot. At that point I started to worry about my Vette that was still sitting in the middle of the infield at the fairgrounds. But I quickly dismissed this as being a result of a overactive imagination and now it was my turn for a shower. That was the last I saw of the storm because the skies had cleared up by the time I got out of the bathroom.

About fifteen minutes later Gary got a call from J.D. and all I heard was "Really! You've got to be kidding me." When Gary hung up the phone he started to relay J.D.'s tales of whoa – a tornado had gone through the fairgrounds and there were a lot of injuries and damage. Five minutes later J.D. was in the room giving us a first hand perspective of hanging onto his tent poles to keep it from collapsing onto his truck. He said that at one point it felt as if the tent was going straight up in the air taking him right along with it. He then told us the Mother's wax product tent did get blown away along with five or ten other tents across the street from his. At that point Gary and I looked at each other and had the same thought, we'd better get to the fairgrounds and check out my Vette.

The 15 minutes drive to the fairgrounds seemed to take forever. I had all kinds of visions running through my head including a '67 Vette laying on its roof in the middle of the infield. Gary told me not to worry because I have insurance. While that may be true, for those of you who aren't familiar with unrestored original cars or "survivors", their value is as high as Top Flight restored cars since as they say "you can always restore a car but a car is unrestored factory original only once." If an unrestored factory original car is repainted or restored then the value drops from the top value down to the quality of the restoration. So if my Vette was damaged, the value could have dropped as much as 50-60%. To collect \$20,000 for a paint job from the insurance company would not compensate for the \$60,000-\$80,000 drop in the market value.

These thoughts simply compounded my anxiety as we continued to drive to the fairgrounds. As we got closer we started to see fallen branches sporadically. Then as we turned on the street leading up to the gate for the fairgrounds the situation started to look very bleak. Trees, limbs and debris lined both sides of the road. We could see rescue vehicles still heading towards and away from the fairgrounds. My pulses quickened and my heart pounded.

We finally reached the main gate, it looked like a bomb had exploded and there was a swath of destruction across the fairground headed directly towards where my Vette was on the opposite side of the field. Tents were down or completely missing, and what had blown away were piled up against other tents or lying on cars out in the field. I expected the worse as we slowly wound our way over towards where I left my Vette. The scene was highlighted by the glow of the sunset and the reflection of the red lights of the rescue vehicles all around the fairgrounds.

I finally got to the crest of the hill where my Vette should be and held my breath, anticipating what I would see next. I finally saw its white stinger on the hood reflecting in the sunset and sitting in the middle of the hill with a collapsed tent immediately behind and other debris and destruction all around it. The white stinger almost looked like a beacon of tranquility in the midst of destruction. As we got out of the truck and examined the car for damage we were both completely amazed that it was apparently unscathed, even though there was a tent pole lying next to the front fender.

The damage all around my Vette was enormous. The tent had fallen onto 3 other high value cars. In all four directions there were tents completely gone and cars damaged. I felt very fortunate to have an unscathed car. Irish luck had to be on my side for the second time in a few weeks!

I spent the next several hours helping to pick up the mess, helping to remove cars from the tent next to my car and helping Gary and J.D. clean up their vending area and load their stuff into trucks to get them out of the weather since their tent was destroyed.

The lady from Mother's had no tent, so she needed the space she had shared in her trailer earlier to get what was left of her products under cover. She looked like she was hurt so I asked her what happened. She explained that she too was trying to hold her tent during the storm and the wind did pick it up and dragged her across the street as it blew away. She finally let go and away the tent went. She looked very bruised and was limping from an ankle injury.

We had a quick dinner after cleaning up as much as possible. As the evening wore on we heard rumors of two deaths and many more injuries. I began to feel bad about worrying about my car, which could be replaced, when people were lost which cannot be replaced.

After dinner we decided to get my Vette under cover since they were predicting more thunderstorms that evening and we concluded that the event would be washed out for Sunday due to all of the damage. I drove the car 5 miles to our hotel without my dealer plates on it. I think the cops had enough other things to worry about at 12:30 Sunday morning.

As a footnote, thanks God, the rumors about the two deaths were only rumors. Five people were taken to the hospital and eleven others were treated on the fairgrounds. I hope they are all well now.

Our best wishes go out to all who suffered a loss or were injured at Carlisle.