

CORVETTE XPRESSIONS

Corvette Expressions 3rd Edition
Volume 163 April, 2020



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C1

1953-1962



C2

1963-1967



C3

1968-1982



C4

1984-1996



C5

1997-2004



C6

2005-2013



C7

2014-2019



C8

2020-present



NOTES

From the President

It was a terrible shock to learn of Kenny's passing earlier this month. We are dedicating this issue to him as one of our founding members. I would like to thank Lisa for putting this together and for the wonderful words from Joanne Flume and Bill Zide in tribute. Kenny's loss along with Linda's and Jerry's all within a year's time reminds us of how fragile life is.

My hope is that we soon find relief from this awful virus and its effect on our country, our families and our way of life. I hope that we can soon start to heal and begin to return to normal. In the meantime please love one another, make a phone call or write an e-mail to check up on your friends and loved ones or just say hello, let them know you are running to the store, ask if they need anything....

America became stronger, and people were nicer, more polite and patriotic following 9/11. I have seen this taking place since this (virus) started to hit home! I ask all our members and friends to stay strong and help others! I wish everyone all the best!

With utmost sincerity, your friend,
Howard Fink

NOTES

From the Editor

Greetings, and welcome to the April, 2020 edition of Corvette Expressions.

Once again, our club has been dealt a sorrowful blow as we have lost another cherished member, and one of our club founders, Mr. Ken Kotacska.

Larry and I had the privilege of getting to know Kenny, not only from the monthly meetings, but he had come to our house a few times to do some much-needed roofing work. We both liked him very much.

Now, it is my honor to remember the gentleman who started the club we all love so much with the tribute within these pages. Much thanks to Joanne Fiume and Bill Zide for their touching remembrances of Kenny, and thank-you also to Stephanie Novatski for sharing so many wonderful pictures.



We will miss you, Ken Kotacska!

Lisa Force
Newsletter Editor



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Club Activities for 2020

Activities Committee Meeting was held on 1/23/20

- Sat. Apr. 25 Cape May and lunch, John Murrell and Lori Kane **(cancelled)**
- Sat. May 9 Ringwood State Park, NJ and Lakeside Diner, Bill & Donna Nagle
- Sun. May 17 Corvette Express Car Show at Bar A, Skip Allen and Joe/Linda Fernandez
- Fri./Sat./Sun. May 29, 30, 31 Trip to Watkins Glen Racetrack, Frank & Kathy Jones
- Fri. Jun. 12 Fox Hollow Vineyards, Holmdel, NJ, Lisa & Larry Force
- Sat. Jun. 20 CE Picnic - American Legion, George and Beverly T.
- Fri. thru Tues. Jul 17 - 21 Trip to Saranac Lake, Bill & Donna Nagle
- Sept. 11-13 Adirondack VetteFest and Poker Run - Go to www.adirondackcorvettes.com for more info.
- Sat. Sept. 12 Indian Echo Cavern & Shady Maple lunch, Hershey, PA, John Murrell and Lori Kane
- Fri. thru Tues. Oct. 9 - 12 Trip to Vermont, Bill & Donna Nagle

Other activities and dates TBA. Subject to change.

Please mark these dates on your calendar. Your Activities Committee has put together an amazing line-up of fun things to do, and we all look forward to your participation. More information will follow as we approach each date. Sign-up sheets will be available at upcoming meetings. If you are unable to sign up at the meetings and want to attend, please contact the organizer or me. Watch for emails with details and reminders regarding each activity. Also, if you have signed up for an activity and cannot attend, please contact the organizer or me.

Thank you,
Bill Nagle
Activities Chairperson cell: 908-415-1248



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Remembering Ken Kotacska

The following, is from a tribute to Ken Kotacska, written by Joanne Fiume.

For those not aware, there would be no Corvette Express without Kenny Kotacska and Greg Norton. Greg has since moved to Florida and remains a long-distance member. They filed the Certificate of Incorporation way back on July 6, 1985.

The club started with a handful of members and usually ended up with drinks at the bar. Ken and Greg owned a photshop, and for many years Ken was the club photographer. He was particularly known for taking the annual club photo. Our annual picnic was held at the home of Ed Novatski where Ken would climb the roof to take a group photo of the members and their cars. Typical Kenny!

Ken also was known for his 'bowling nights'. At first, we bowled at midnight, but as we got older, the bowling got earlier. Many of us remember Ken bringing his son Kenny (KWK2.) He is now grown and is a wonderful guy like his Dad.

Kenny loved his yellow Vette (aka the "Electric Banana") and there were other Vettes through the years as well. He was famous for talking about 'the chicken coup'. Whatever you might be looking for, ask Ken as he just might have it 'in the coup'.

Our connection with Kenny began in 1988 when Lenny became a member of Corvette Express and I followed a few years later. Through all the years we worked with him you could always depend on Kenny to provide some comic relief. But one thing is for sure...he cared deeply about the club he started with Greg. He also cared deeply about his family and friends.

When Kenny had the first stroke, I spoke to him while he was in the hospital and told him we loved him. His response was "right back atcha!" Typical Kenny.

Kenny was a great guy with a kind heart and was definitely one of a kind. Please remember Kenny, Chris and their son Kenny in your prayers. Rest in peace my friend...

Joanne M. Fiume





Remembering Ken Kotacska

The following tribute to Ken Kotacska was written by Bill Zide.

I joined the club in 1991, the same year we purchased our 1st Vette - the '86 "ARed1". KWK (Ken Kotacska) and Dino Lambros were the first club members I met when I attended the club's annual car show at Future Chevrolet on Rt 34 in Matawan (all 3 now gone and only memories). It was KWK's positive outlook and friendly nature that sealed my interest in joining Corvette Express. I was not to be disappointed.

Many of you may not know that KWK had a Yellow (C3) Corvette with an L98 motor that he called the "Yellow Banana". I recall that he once brought it to either our club show or the Englishtown show. It created quite an uproar since the question always seemed to circulate at club meetings whether KWK actually owned a working Vette.....

Kenny used to talk about all the cars he had in various stages of repair at his "coop", an old chicken coop building that he owned in Sayreville or thereabouts. He used to extend invitations to club members to visit the "coop", almost as if it was a museum. Alas, I never took advantage of the opportunity to do so, something I have come to regret when he sold the coop several years ago.

One thing about KWK is that all his cars were always "works in progress" & he would regale us with humorous stories of how he obtained the cars and the parts to work on them, often by bartering his roofing business.

KWK was a roofer by profession, always enjoying heights and, it was said, having his head up in the clouds. KWK was the driving force behind the club car picture taking session, an annual event, that he promoted for many years at the club picnics. The picture used to be the mainstay of the club's home page. A few of us would plan the car layout and it was Kenny's job to climb his giant ladder or ride the cherry picker with a plethora of club member's camera around his neck taking pictures of all the Vettes from lofty heights. He, of course, would have the prints for sale at the next club meeting.....

KWK was an avid collector of Vette catalogs and the yearly GM Vette model display cars. He would contact his dealer friends to secure catalog copies and purchase case(s) of the dealer models. All of the dealer display models in my focused collection were purchased courtesy of KWK. When we bought our '18 C7, I talked the salesperson at Kerbeck into giving me a couple extra C7 catalogs as they apparently were hard to get. KWK was delighted when I gave him a catalog, as he was no longer able to get copies from his source.

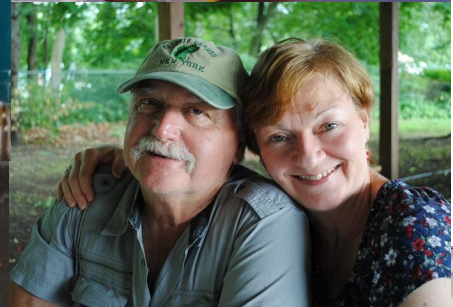
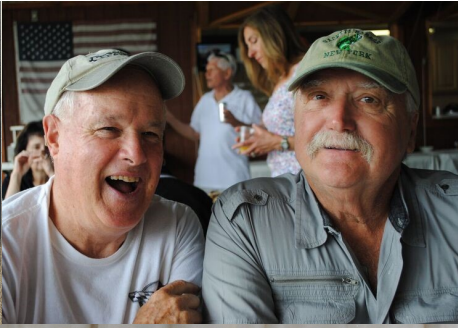
Kenny's concern for the future of the club was reflected in his promoting the establishment of an advisory board, made up of past presidents, who could share their knowledge & experience with club members assuming executive responsibilities. The advisory board he created met periodically and functioned for a few years. As the club evolved and interests shifted, the club membership decided that the advisory board, with its restricted participatory criteria, was no longer needed and we moved on.

Not to be diminished, the club's success and growth are a direct result of KWK's commitment and sustained interest in Corvette Express. I for one, am honored to have had KWK be a part of my life's experience.

If our spirits survive in some form, I am certain that KWK will be monitoring the club's future and pleased that members continue to enjoy their interactions as a club.

--Bill Zide





Corvette Express Club
New Jersey



CORVETTES AT BAR-A (RAIN OR SHINE!)

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Bar Anticipation (BAR-A)
703 16th Ave Lake Como (Belmar), NJ 07719
<http://www.bar-a.com/>

SUNDAY
MAY 17, 2020
11 AM – ? PM
RAIN OR SHINE
BBQ: 11 AM – 2 PM



RAIN?
Come in Your Other Car!

UNLIMITED HOT DOGS,
HAMBURGERS & FIXINGS
\$15/PERSON

Display Only: No Judging
Hang Out with Vette Owners
Win a Door Prize (Plenty Available!)



CORVETTE ***EXPRESS*** Est. 1980 New Jersey

The Corvette Express Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Freehold Elks at 8:00pm. New members are always welcome!