

PROUD MEMBERS OF  
**KANSAS CITY CORVETTE ASSOCIATION**

Sponsor: Hendrick Chevrolet – Shawnee Mission, KS

**April 2017**

**Next Meeting – May 12, 2017**

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Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30pm at Shawnee Civic Center, 13817 Johnson Drive Shawnee, Kansas 66216. Guests Welcome!

### **April Meeting Minutes**

We began this meeting in the parking lot. John Rau of Sparkling Clean Auto Spa did a quick demo on car detailing followed up by a slide show presentation inside. Here is what John had to say:

*I had the pleasure of meeting KCCA's club secretary, Joe Moncado and his wife Vicki at a recent "New Neighbor's" supper club event, and discovered that we shared a passion for cars. We got to talking, and by the end of the evening, he suggested that I come to one of the club's meeting to do a presentation on my detailing business. As the date drew near, he suggested that I also include a demonstration of my detailing, in addition to the power point presentation I planned. My first thought was: "Hmm, all these Corvette Club people are already going to have perfect cars, so what can I possibly show them?" I decided to demonstrate a clay bar treatment along with my favorite show car wax, Pink Wax. Joe said he'd bring his Corvette, which he hadn't done much to recently. In the back of my mind, I was still thinking that his car would be too perfect, and sure enough, his car was really, really clean. Well, luckily, one couple chose to bring their daily driver to the April meeting, and I accosted them in the parking lot and they were great sports about letting me demo on their SUV. "Ha, we've got 2 Corvettes to care for, this one's lucky to get rained on. We don't do anything to it." It was the perfect vehicle to demo on and I'm sure that their driver's side top fender beads water like crazy! Thank you, Danny and Cindy Townsend. I enjoyed meeting everyone, and sharing my power point presentation*

*on some of the antique and classic show cars I've detailed. Everyone was so friendly, and I got a few ideas to take back to our Cadillac Club on how to improve our meeting experience for our members.*

*And, of course, if I can provide detailing services to any of your members, either for their Corvettes or daily driver, I would be honored to earn your business. I also sell gift certificates, and with Mother's Day coming, a car detailing makes a great and thoughtful gift.*

*Thanks again, Kansas City Corvette Association and I wish you all the best this car show season!*

*John C. Rau, owner*

*Sparkling Clean Auto Spa  
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Tricia introduced members Gary and Crystal Stahl who have rejoined KCCA.

Allen let us know that the calendar shoot originally scheduled in May has been canceled. We still need trophy sponsors for the Hendrick show on May 7<sup>th</sup>.. There will be a speaker from Heartland Park in Topeka at the Hendrick show..

Leland discussed how our income comes from membership dues, sponsorship from Hendrick Chevrolet and our two shows, Hendrick on and Vettes on the Plains held August 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>.. Please participate in our shows and help support your club.

Joe asked for you to send an article about yourself to him to be featured in a future newsletter. This month we reached out to the Lonemans, see their story below. If you haven't been to a meeting in awhile Joe may be reaching out to you next.

Rhonnie reminded everyone of the tour of Union Horse Distillery on Saturday 4/16.

Don Curtiss asked for volunteers to help with the Vettes on the Plains show. We also need trophy sponsors.

### April Dinner Cruise

The next dinner cruise will be THURSDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>

WE WILL BE MEETING AT THE SEARS OUTLET STORE LOCATED AT 435 AND 87TH ST ON THE KANSAS SIDE. 8540 MAUER ROAD, LENEXA, KS 66219

WE WILL BE TAKING THE VERY FUN HWY 5 DRIVE TO LANSING AND EATING AT ALL SLABBED UP BBQ!! IF IT IS NICE OUTSIDE, WE WILL HAVE OUTDOOR SEATING---IF NOT THEN WE WILL HAVE SEATING INSIDE. PLEASE RSVP TO [RHONNIE65@JUNO.COM](mailto:RHONNIE65@JUNO.COM) IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS MONTHS DINNER CRUISE!!!

Kay Owens will be hosting the July dinner cruise on Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **June KCCA Picnic**

Date: June 10

Location: Blue Springs Park  
2204 SW South Ave  
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Time: 11:00 4:00

BBQ will be catered by 3 Pigs BBQ. Members are asked to bring either an appetizer or a dessert---your choice!!! Please RSVP with total number in your party by June 1st--sign up sheet will be available at the meetings or e-mail Tricia

Gary and Pat Chance provided treats at the meeting in celebration of their anniversary.

50-50 winner of \$61 was Tom Setter

**Saturday March 25th we toured the -  
The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures** with lunch afterwards at Winsteads on the Plaza



At Winsteads for lunch - from left, Ron & Jane, Vicki & Joe, Cheryl & Gary Hanson, Angel, Pat & Larry.

**9th Annual Ottawa, KS Show** hosted by John Geiss, April 8, 2017

Nine KCCA members attended this show. There were 64 cars and we won Club Participation.

Dave Clayton - 1st Late C3  
Chuck Thomas - 1st Early C4  
Jim Schaefer - 1st Late C4  
Don and Katie Curtiss - 1st C5 and Specialty Class  
Gary and Ginny Hemphill - 1st C7

Diana Slater won Best of Class C4 at **Corvettes of Enid** April 1<sup>st</sup>. A 25th anniversary jacket is the award for Best of Class. This is a great show with an awesome group of people!

There were 119 Corvettes at **The Mid-America Corvette Cup** on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Columbia, Mo. Winners included Sal Donze, Vee Moorman and Gary Hemphill.

### Update on Dick and Brenda Loneman

Thought we would check in with the club to negate any rumors of abduction by aliens or other nefarious machinations. Yes, we are still members but have been quite busy with health issues and family. Dick's battle with Rheumatoid Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue etc. was put to the test by prostate cancer which is common in men of a certain age. The surgery was a success but the patient almost died---or so goes the joke. He suffered three major infections with three long hospital stays and it has been a very slow healing process taking months. (actually over a year) to get back on his feet. He is doing limited mowing for a few customers and is doing well all things considered. He uses a riding mower so the worst of it is the trimming. He loves it--go figure. I guess being a Marine means never staying down. Updating and house repairs have taken up quite a bit of time as well as plans of downsizing. Still have work to do but getting there.

Our daughter Lori had a son last September to go with the 4 yr old sibling and THAT has kept grandma very busy. Have done quite a bit of babysitting and helping out when Lori did shift work. Have enjoyed every minute with them. We so appreciate the inquiries concerning us and do miss the club. The kind of health issues Dick has makes planning anything in advance difficult. Fatigue and chronic pain could knock out the day that has something planned. Even family gatherings can be difficult which I guess is true for a lot of people even without the health issues. We have not given up the ship and are sure you will see us pop in here and there ready for some fun. Hope everyone is having a great time in the club.

See you soon,

Dick and Brenda



### May Birthdays

<b>Kevin Karst 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Nancy Newham 1<sup>st</sup></b>
Larry Reynolds 1st	<b>John Weigel 1st</b>
Jerry Chance 7th	Jim Brown 9 <sup>th</sup>
Jim Field 10 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Westmoreland 12th
Phil French 14 <sup>th</sup>	Bonnie Patterson 17 <sup>th</sup>
Jack Cleveland 25 <sup>th</sup>	Diana Slater 25th
Adam Hoehn 26 <sup>th</sup>	Glenda Parsons 26 <sup>th</sup>
John Wagner 31st	



### Wedding Anniversaries:

May 2017

Denise & Nathan Huntley 1st  
Marcha & Ken Tietjen 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Cindy & Raymond Francis 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Vicki & Dennis Hedberg 25th**  
Susie & Jim Shearer 26th  
Glenda & Allen Parsons 27th

### Milestone Club Anniversaries:

May 2017

**10 Years**

Larry & Beatrice Finkemeier 5/21/07

**5 Years**

Tony & Deb Moravac 5/11/12

### KCCA Sponsored or Co-Sponsored

*April 2017*

27-29 Michelin NCM Bash, Bowling Green, KY

*May 2017*

- 7 **Hendricks Car Show**
- 12 **KCCA meeting**

*June 2017*

- 10 **KCCA club picnic at Blue Springs Park 11-4**  
Blue Springs Park  
2204 SW South Ave  
Blue Springs, MO 64015
- 17-18 **Tanganyika Wildlife park in Goddard, KS**
- 22-24 **Bloomington Gold - June 22-24, 2017**  
Some members of KCCA are planning to attend Bloomington Gold in Indianapolis. If you plan to attend, and would like to stay at the same hotel, here is the information:  
TownePlace Suites Indianapolis Park 100  
5802 West 71st Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278  
Phone: 317-290-8900  
The hotel is conveniently located 9.1 miles (roughly 14 minutes) from the Indianapolis Speedway where the event is held. Contact Brian Evans if you have questions. 913-620-8298

*July 2017*

- 14 **KCCA meeting**

*August 2017*

- 11 **Meet & Greet at Uncle Buck's Grill, located at Bass Pro from 6-8**
- 12 **6<sup>th</sup> Annual KCCA Vettes on the Plains Bass Pro Shop- 12051 Bass Pro Drive Olathe KS**

*September 2017*

- 8 **KCCA meeting**

*October 2017*

- 5-9 **Eureka Springs All Corvette Show**

- 13 **KCCA meeting**

*November 2017*

- 10 **KCCA meeting**

**National Corvette Museum News:**

**KCCA Master Ambassador Report - April 2017**

Each month I try to provide you with information regarding your National Corvette Museum, the museum belongs to all of us.

The next massive gathering at the museum will be the National Corvette Caravan in August of 2019 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Museum, if you are thinking about joining the caravan just let me know.

Each month I like to find a unique Corvette Story you might enjoy, this is this months edition.

Joe Moncado  
KCCA Master Ambassador  
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Corvette has long-standing ties to the military and for John "Sparky" Lersch, his tie to Corvette is because of the military.

After a moderately successful high school football stint in Pittsburgh, PA, Sparky was recruited to play football for a number of college programs, including United States Naval Academy coach Steve Belichick (father of New England Patriot's coach Bill Belichick). "I didn't really want to go. After growing up in the north, I wanted to go south where it was warm and attend the University of Miami," said Sparky. "My dad wanted me to follow in his footsteps – join the Navy, become a Navy pilot, fly off aircraft carriers. On the drive back home after talking to Coach Belichick, as we neared my house we drove right past the high school homecoming queen's house. For her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday she had received a 1967 dark green Corvette convertible. Fate gave me the opportunity and nerve to say to my dad, 'If I go to the Naval Academy, will you buy me a new Corvette?' He extended his hand and our deal was struck. Tuition at Navy was free, so my dad, an accountant at the time, made out pretty well."

Sparky's Senior year he was finally allowed to have a car on campus, so he and his dad visited the local Chevrolet dealer who offered great deals to midshipman. Sparky picked out a 1973 Corvette, Dark Blue with Beige interior, fully loaded and stickered at \$5,600. Eight weeks later, out of the St. Louis factory, his dream car had arrived.

"Up until this point I had never even sat in a Corvette. I wanted my first experience to be with my own car. I'm 6'2", and that's about as tall as you could be to sit in one at the time."

Sparky kept the car about five years and put 75,000 miles on it. "You could eat off the engine, I kept it spit polished all the time. It was my pride and joy." He kept the car for five years and sold it at the end of his first tour flying off the U.S.S. Saratoga outside of Jacksonville, FL.

Eventually Sparky became a Navy pilot and relocated to Pensacola, Florida. There he saw a 1962 hardtop convertible Corvette sitting on a lot. He paid \$2,800 for the car, kept it a little while, then sold it for \$3,000. "I thought I had made a lot of money off that car at the time," Sparky laughs.

Later in life, Sparky started a habit of buying a new Corvette after returning from a Navy cruise, driving it until his next cruise and then selling it. "GMC gave us such a good military discount on the Corvettes I could sell it for a little more than I paid, and make a little money – basically driving the car for free! I ordered a 1978, '79 and the last one was a 1980. I got out of the Navy in 1981 and sold it shortly thereafter. I worked in downtown New York City, which isn't a good place to own a Corvette."

That was the last time Sparky owned a Corvette until recently. As a 64 year old retiree with a 31 year career in commercial aviation at Delta Airlines, Sparky was now facing a bladder cancer diagnosis. "What started out as no big deal turned into some mild chemotherapy, which turned into some heavy chemotherapy, which turned into the famous 'do you have your affairs in order?' They were words you never expect to hear. Those questions give one pause."



Sparky Lersch with his ground-bound rocket, a 2017 Stingray Corvette in true Blue Angel scheme. Sparky went home and started flipping through an old photo album, running across a picture of his 1973 Corvette. "I decided the only thing on my Bucket List was to get one last Corvette." The next day he went back to his Oncologist to get a more definable timetable of events in his suddenly short future. "Doctors are funny. They want to give you enough information to make preparations, but they have to leave enough wiggle room for both hope and probabilities. My doctor would offer me no definitive timetable." So Sparky tried another angle, telling the doctor he had decided to go out and get a brand new 2017 Corvette, Admiral Blue with a big yellow stripe down the hood. "I said, 'My only question for you Doc is should I get a one year or a two year lease?' He laughed, having seen right through my ploy, paused a moment and said, 'I think a one year lease would be best.' The next day I found the exact car I wanted at a local dealer and signed a two-year lease. Motivation comes in many forms, and the idea of outliving the lease was mine."

Sparky is now on his third round of chemo, and while the process has been unpleasant at times, things are looking up. CAT scans show the chemo is making good process, and he's started to set aside money to buy out the lease in November of 2019. "I drive my Vette to every chemo session, because no matter how bad I feel, dropping the hammer on 460hp of a Stingray is just as much fun as it was 44 years ago. You just can't feel sorry for yourself in the cockpit of America's premier sports machine."

We're looking forward to seeing Sparky cruise around in his ground-bound Blue Angel!