

2019 Corvette Caravan



On August 21, 2019, a small group of members from the North County Corvette Club (NCoCC) set out on a great adventure joining the Southwest Section of the National Corvette Caravan to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The members who attended are: Richard and Susan Gilroy, Bob and Carol Haller, Mark and Ruth Harwell, Dave and Kathleen Regenhardt, Rob and Sandy Roth, Gary and Barbara Sadnick, Gary and Sharon Wood, as well as past members; Tim Murray and Pam Mason, and the group was led by Sam and Donna Rindskopf.

Inside this special newsletter, some will share their stories and pictures with you. Stories of their journey together to Bowling Green and their individual stories of returning home.

The next caravan will be in five years. If you have not made this adventure, we encourage you to do so. We hope our stories will inspire you.

Kathleen Regenhardt
NCoCC
Newsletter Editor



Sam and Donna Rindskopf

Our favorite memories during the Caravan Drive...

Wow, it is difficult to identify a few favorite memories when we have so many during the drive to Bowling Green. My favorite memory that tops my list is driving to Bowling Green in a brand new C7 Grand Sport with Donna by my side, it's hard to beat a road trip with your best friend, companion, and wife in a brand-new Corvette. Next to that experience was the drive through the Valley of Fire, that was a great experience. The dinner in Kansas City at the Airline History Museum was also a blast, made even better by the fact that they had a vegetarian dinner for Donna and Kathleen. The KC BBQ was delicious! We also enjoyed the trip down to the Historic Old Grand Junction and checking out all of the statues, Donna loved the Bison made of car bumpers! Our last stop before reaching Kentucky was in Cape Girardo, Missouri, this quaint little town on the Mississippi River came alive with over 1,000 Corvettes and we had a blast celebrating our last night on the Caravan with a fantastic dinner at a Cajun restaurant.



Our favorite memories during the Anniversary Celebration...

We really enjoyed the opening night dinner, that went way better than the arrival at the Museum itself. Of course, meeting Amy Hardin (NCM Staff) for drinks afterwards was great, Amy is a great person and a terrific ambassador for the Museum. The side trip to Nashville was amazing, we really enjoyed the tour of the Grand Ole Opry and the show that evening was terrific. Donna has been a huge fan of Vince Gil and seeing him there was great. The private after the show event that Dave Regenhardt found out about was probably the highlight of Donna's whole trip, as you can see by the pictures, we were just a few feet away from Vince! The Lost River Cave Tour turned out to be not quite as exciting as we all thought it would be, but it was fun none the less. For me the dozen laps we got to do in the NCM Motorsports Track were the highlight of my time in Bowling Green.



Our favorite memories after leaving Bowling Green...

We left Bowling Green on Monday and drove to Jackson Village (near Milwaukee), Wisconsin to visit our nephew and his wife, they were very surprised to see us. The next day we drove over to see the House on the Rock near Madison. Wow, that place was amazing, if you are ever in Wisconsin you must go there. Pictures or words do not do it justice. After leaving the House on the Rock we drove up to Sand Creek (population 569), Wisconsin to visit an old friend of ours from our Louisiana days. We had lunch at the only restaurant in town the Sand Creek Café which was built in 1925 and it hasn't changed much inside or out since then, the food was great. Donna and I tasted deep fried cheese curds for the first time. Of course, Donna refused to leave Wisconsin without stopping to buy some cheese! After spending the night in Fargo, North Dakota we headed across the state with several stops along the way to take in the sights, for example the world's largest buffalo, really a Bison according to Donna even though the sign said buffalo. Our next stop was Medora, North Dakota, located just outside of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which we visited the next day. Medora is a very small town with lots of shops and old buildings. Our trip into the park was great, while not as scenic as some national parks it is still worth visiting. We really enjoyed the prairie dog towns and the herds of bison. Well 60 miles of gravel road, 30 miles of freshly oiled roads, and an hour-long torrential downpour later we rolled into our youngest daughter's home just outside of Boulder, Colorado. We got to watch our grandsons compete in a karate tournament and do standup paddle boarding and kayaking on a nearby lake. The trip from our daughter's to home was uneventful, we rolled into our garage at home after adding 6,298 miles to our new Grand Sport. All in all it was a fantastic trip with great friends and a chance to see many new places.



Richard and Susan Gilroy

Scenery in the Valley of Fire was terrific (although it probably would have been more enjoyable if it had been a bit cooler). For Richard Gilroy one of the more unexpected highlights was dinner at the Airline History Museum and seeing a Constellation aircraft. Cape Girardeau would have been great on it's own, but the warmth and friendliness of it's residents took it over the top. If we ever find ourselves in that part of the country again we would make it a point to stop! However, for both of us the activity we will never forget was the Kentucky State Trooper escorted tour to Mammoth Cave National Park. What's not to like about blowing through every stop sign and stoplight on the way, running at 95 mph for 15 minutes on the highway and zipping through the most gorgeous scenery in Kentucky?

Our trip home found us in Cleveland at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Richard dragged Sue's R&R heart out of the building after 6.5 hours. To our delight, it was Airshow Week in Cleveland. The Air Force Blue Angels were performing directly over the Hall of Fame. Then, it was on to visit Sue's family in Wisconsin and then to visit a college friend in Jackson, WY and Idaho Falls.



Dave and Kathleen Regenhardt

What a fantastic trip! This is our second caravan. We first did this trip in 2009 with a small group of our members traveling Route 66. Dave and I were eager to take the trip again in a much different fashion; traveling with over 200 corvettes. We were a little nervous of the logistics of it, but everything worked out extremely well.

Our journey to Kentucky took us through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. Just can't say enough about the scenery as well as the company.



Bowling Green was a blast! A little shopping, seeing the museum, a concert, side trip to Nashville and the Opry, and good food. We even got to honor a couple of old friends.



Our trip home changed a little. Originally we were planning on heading to the Carolina's but Hurricane Dorian stopped that. So it was a trip to the Tail of the Dragon in the Smokey Mountains and then head home to our new grandson.

Our journey home took us through Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.



Gary and Barbara Sadnick

The 25th anniversary caravan was really three trips in one. The first was the journey to Bowling Green. The second was the time in Bowling Green. And the third was the trip home on Route 66.

Going out there was beauty in the spectacular views in the Valley of Fire and going through Colorado. Not a highlight was corn. Hours and hours of corn! The stop in Colby, Kansas where we all ate at the TWA museum/hanger was both entertaining and delicious. Cape Gerardeau opened up their entire downtown for only Corvettes. It was a memorable night.

At Bowling Green, the museum was the main show. It's an amazing venue. The Jefferson Starship concert was fun. We did a side trip to Nashville and attended a tour, performance, and backstage chat with Vince Gill at the Grand Ole Opry. It was a pretty cool day. We should have stayed another day to get on the track at the museum.

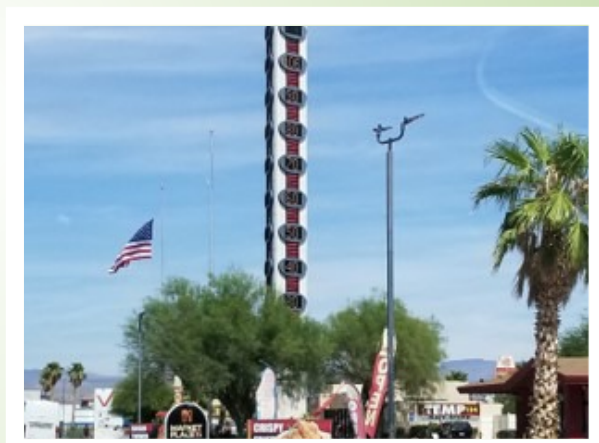
Coming home on the 66 was truly a kick. We stopped at just about every old gas station on the route. Some of the places were preserved well and interesting to visit and photograph. Other places showed how depressed and beat up the areas were that got deserted by the new freeways. Overall it was a wonderful way to return home.



Some of our favorite scenery was from the desert. Who knew that the world's tallest thermometer was in Baker, California. We do now! It was over 100 degrees the day we zipped past it.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area had stunning vistas of rock formations that contained all the colors of the rainbow. The best red sandstone formations were in the Valley of Fire State Park. Seeing all those Corvettes swarming through the Park was quite a sight!

The most stunning scenery was in Colorado driving through Glenwood Canyon with the Colorado River right beside the roadway. After leaving the Rocky Mountains, the landscape changed to rolling hills and finally to flat land. Experiencing this drive with a group of friends made this trip special. Everyday the radios cackled to life as club members chatted about the trip. Stopping for lunch and dinner with our group helped us to know our club members better. Plus driving for so many days in our Corvette, gave us the opportunity to know our car better.



The 650 horsepower under the hood helped Gary to close down any gaps in our Caravan between Corvettes. Sharon set a personal land speed record while passing a semi truck. We learned how to use the PDR camera to record some of the drive. The air cooled seats sure helped us keep cool in the desert. Those wide tires really hugged the road well on some winding roads.

Our experiences at Bowling Green ranged from crazy to great fun. The car parade to the museum was a bit unorganized, yet we passed by two C-8's going the opposite direction. Crazy! The next day, Gary and I both got to sit in a hot looking red C—8.

Seeing the National Corvette Museum, shopping at their store, watching the concert, seeing fireworks, dancing at the Gala, surviving the Lost River Boat tour, these were all memorable experiences. Exploring the Nashville area with President Andrew Jackson's home (the Hermitage), Johnny Cash's museum, and the Grand Ole Opry added to our great time.



Our trip home was focused mostly on family for Gary and I. We stayed in Kentucky to see my brother. We visited Lexington Horse Park, attended a Daniel Boone Festival concert, and watched a Labor Day parade.

Next we were off to Illinois to visit Gary's cousins, Verdon and Glenda in Wayne City. We also had a fun picnic with Gary's brother and sister-in-law, Gale & Melva.

Gary let his cousin drive his Vette. Verdon used to drag race and once bet his car's title against another man's car title. Verdon won and came home with two cars! Well, he was quite impressed with the power of the Z06. He exclaimed that driving the Vette was the closest thing to experiencing flying without leaving the ground. Did I mention that Verdon was a pilot? He took us to an airshow with experimental ultra-light planes. We also visited with Sharon's nephew in Oklahoma. Last stop on this amazing road trip was Sharon's dad in Arizona.



Just a few more pictures!





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