

Trip of a Lifetime

Attendees

**Brian and Debbie
Palmer**

Betty Mae Madden

**Darrell Chute &
Ferne Selig**

Dan McAskill & Dave

Rick Holt and Brenda

**Roger and Angela
Bourgeois**

Roger and Leontine

**Author : Brian Palmer
President
Corvette Club of Nova
Scotia**

Highlights of this Summers Trip to “Corvettes at Carlisle” and the “Caravan to Bowling Green”



Promotional Poster for Calisle

Well.... to start off, I was almost right about the gas prices of \$2.75 to \$3.00 per gallon for high test gas. Except for the gas in Indiana at \$2.29 a gallon , we ranged from \$2.59 to \$2.89 and only once paid \$3.00 a gallon. So the average was \$2.68 a gallon. The weather was great for leaving on Wednesday. 4 Corvettes from Moncton left early and joined up with us at the Motel in Sturbridge Mass. for the trip on Thursday to Carlisle.

Wednesday August 26th

We planned on getting to the Irving early but the 80 was running 10 to 20 degrees hotter than usual. Since we did not think it was a good idea to go on a 8000 km trip with what maybe a problem, we turned around in Springhill and went back home to change Corvettes. The 2003 Z06 was definitely the right Corvette for this trip, even though we missed taking the 80, as not too many drive the C3's on the bigger trips. However, with the racing that we did, the 80 just would not have been the right choice.

Darrell & Ferne in their 1999 Black Convertible and Dan & Dave in Dan's 2006 Yellow Convertible met us at the Salisbury Irving and we were on the road around 9am.

Next stop was the Woodland Irving, another 156 miles, to have dinner and fill up with gas.

Then the next stop was mile marker 87 - 197 miles, to fill up with gas. What a surprise, the full service center went out of business and we had to stop at the next one about 30 miles further down the road.

Debbie and I then stopped at the Country Buffet at Maine Mall, another 45 miles. The rest did not want to have supper that soon, so they continued on to the hotel. They got there around 6pm and we landed around 7pm. The motel was in Sturbridge Mass. 160 miles (558 miles travelled that day)

Roger & Leontine in their 2000 White Convertible, Bob & Carolyn in their 2003 Red Convertible and Art & Dianne in their 1984 Grey from the Greater Moncton Corvette Club were already there.



Thursday August 27th

We were getting ready to leave around 8am for the drive to Matamoras, 177 miles away, for dinner and gas. We were surprised by Roger & Angela in their 2002 who showed up to travel down to Carlisle with us. We almost had two problems on this leg of the trip (the only ones for the whole trip). A car came out of an exit and hesitated in each of the two lanes before coming into the third lane where we were. Lucky for us the 03 had great brakes. I am sure if I did not jump on the brakes he would have missed up my front end. The next close call was when we first entered Matamoras and were stopped at a stop light. I watched it turn green, shifted into first and entered the intersection. Out of the corner of my eye I could see a half-ton barreling down on us and I came on to it. The truck just missed Debbie and I. It went between us and Roger & Leontine. I guess it's harder than I thought to see a bright Yellow Corvette.

Our next stop was the Best Western Harrisburg, 173 miles. After booking into the motel we went to Corvettes @ Carlisle and then to the Country Buffet for supper. After supper we asked their mascot Bee to pose with the Corvettes.

Friday August 28th

Our motel had a very good breakfast of eggs, waffles, bagels, toast, many different kinds of cereal, donuts, juice, milk, coffee and fresh fruit. We left for the fairgrounds at 6:30 to get a great spot by the washing area at gate 3. It rained on and off for part of the day, which kept the crowds down and made for better shopping. We got a lot of stuff. Two of my better buys were; a chrome alternator 100 amp for \$89.00 with no tax and a full seal kit (doors, t-top) for the 80 for \$209.00. The most unfortunate thing about shopping was the fact that Mid-America, Eckler's and a couple of other suppliers said they were not going to be at Carlisle and they were there. Come to find out, the state was going to charge them on all their sales for the year which is stupid. So they came up with a plan that they would start a separate company for doing car shows, that way they would only be taxed on what they sold at the show. At least that was their excuse.

Friday night we had dinner plans. Bill & Bonnie Lado, our club members from Oneonta, NY were driving their Wil Cooksey Corvette all the way down from NY to take Debbie, Betty-Mae and I out to supper. What great club spirit. They took us out for a great meal and we spent a couple of hours talking about old times. (They came up to Nova Scotia in 1997 and Orrie, Betty-Mae, Debbie & I showed them around Peggy's Cove and they went with us to Mid-America funfest in 2007). Bill & Bonnie showed us pictures and outlined the route they took last year on their 3 month tour of the USA. They did as much as you can of the Route 66. It was a very interesting evening.



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Saturday August 29th

6:30 am leave for fairgrounds. The show field was packed with Corvettes. We had done most of our shopping on Friday so we could enjoy the show. We went around taking pictures and talking to old and new friends. At 12 noon we went to the Iron Skillet for lunch. This is a truck stop with a very good buffet and they have a very good selection of toys (CB radios, radar detectors, GMRS radios) and an embroidering shop that can custom make a jacket or a hat in minutes. I had a hat with flames done with my 71 Corvette and the words Corvette Club of Nova Scotia around it. It only took 20 minutes and cost \$20.00. I will wear it on Oct. 18th.

Saturday afternoon around at 4pm it was time to line up for the parade and downtown show. I have never seen more people line the parade route. Darrell & Ferne, Dan & Dave joined us to participate in the parade. The band that they had was great, every one of us had a great time. There is a full video of the parade on www.youtube.com , just search Corvettes Carlisle 2009.

The worst thing about this day was the fact that a guy showed up in a C5 Corvette that resembled a 67 Mid-year. The Corvette looked awesome which causes some problems as I have had my sites on a Grand Sport replica and now this Corvette is going to be produced privately. Besides that, GM was showcasing their new Grand Sports with the flared fenders, 438 HP, plus you can get it in a convertible for \$59,000 US.



Sunday August 30th

6:30 am leave for fairgrounds. Finished shopping. Another hot and sunny day, I bet it was 95 degrees. The show field was packed again. We went over and watched a couple of Corvettes on the dyno and took some more pictures. It was too bad that no one in our group won the Corvette. The winning ticket was the first one, usually it takes 5 or 6 draws before someone is there with the winning ticket.

Monday August 31st

Traveled with Caravan to Belterra, 521 miles. We went over to meet the Caravan and join in with our group. The Atlantic Canada group did not stay for the meeting and left early. The five Corvettes (Roger & Angela, Debbie & I, Darrell & Ferne, Dan & Dave and Betty-Mae) were given our own colour. (They broke the Caravan down into groups of 20 or less assigned a square patch which we put on the windshield . This way

everyone knew we were the same group. All groups were given a radio channel, ours was 6 to use for communication). Just as we were getting ready they asked us if we could take some more Corvettes into our group. This ended up being a lot more fun than I expected as we had 3 Corvettes from Australia and one from Mass. Darren from Australia keeps his Corvette in NY and drives it whenever he is in the US. Bryon was with a friend, Mike. Mike had bought a 2003 Z06 to take back home. Did you know it costs \$4000 to \$8000 to ship the Corvette and another \$40,000 to convert it to right hand-drive?

We stopped outside Cincinnati at the Golden Corral (12090 Mason-Montgomery 45249) for supper, about 1 hour from hotel. What a great road going into Belterra, worth the drive just to go on that road. With Roger & Angela leading and us at the back everything went smooth. Special thanks to Roger & Angela for leading.



Tuesday September 1st

We went to Bluegrass Raceway for the whole day. This was the highlight of the trip for us. We were told that we would be doing highway speeds. Also that there would be no need to empty the Corvettes or wear helmets as it would be no harder than driving down the interstate. The reason for this was that there were no tow trucks or emergency crews if somebody had a problem.

Well, you get 10-13 Corvettes out on a 2.5 mile road course and racing begins. We were doing 118 mph down the straight stretch, which is almost 200 kph. If you go to www.youtube.com and search "Corvette Caravan 2009" you will find 4 videos of Blue Grass racing. Look close and you will see the Bumble Bee and the rest of the crew that went to Bowling Green, having some fun. Debbie did 10 laps and I did 15. I know we probably took a year off its life but it was worth it. Would we do it again? You bet. There was a Banquet that night.



Bluegrass Raceway

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Wednesday September 2nd

Traveled ahead of the Caravan to Bowling Green. I was planning on leaving at 8:30 am but the Caravan announced at the Banquet that they would be sending groups of 20 out starting at 8:30. So I went around telling our group that we would meet for breakfast at 7 am and be on the road at 8 am. In our group was Debbie & I, Betty-Mae, Rick & Brenda, Dan & Dave, Darrell & Ferne, Two Corvettes from Australia. Also Mike & Leslie, in a 69 from Ontario that we met at the pool the night before. 8 Corvettes made for a good run to Bowling Green, which was only 3 hours away. We got to the museum early which was great. We were ahead of the Caravan with lots of time to register & pick up t-shirts and stuff. We had lunch at the Corvette Café, which is at the museum. I was very impressed with the new addition to the museum, it has better displays and a learning interactive center.

CCNS 12:45 Corvette Plant Tour. You had to watch a video first then we were given an interesting tour. The new Grand Sports were on the line for us to get a good look at.

After our plant tour we checked in at our hotel and some of us went for a swim. We waited for Roger & Angela and then we went to the Lost River Caverns. A couple of interesting things starting our Lost River Tour – The River water is supplied by a pond that has no water running into it. It is fed by 3 or 4 springs and the minerals in the ground make the water blue. The second interesting thing is at the beginning of the cave there is a dance floor of polished rock and a huge chandelier. This was the site of a night club from 1930 to 1964. It was the only air conditioned club of its era because the cave remained 58 degrees summer and winter. The boat ride into the cave was interesting with many formations to look at. There is a story of Jessie James being held up in this cave for a week after a bank robbery but the lawmen never got him as Jessie found another way out. Very interesting.

Supper at Ryan's was great as usual, can't beat a buffet.

Thursday September 3rd

Free Scenic Road Tour & GPS Poker Run. The roads around Kentucky are awesome. We did as many tours as we could just to see the beautiful countryside. Debbie and I went all the way to Santa Claus, Indiana to go to a Christmas Shop. Great roads and the cheapest gas seen on the trip, \$2.29 a gallon.

Friday September 4th

9am-12 Poker Run and 11am-3pm Digital Scavenger Hunt. We did both of these and Debbie's hand of Queens almost won. The Digital Scavenger Hunt was harder than it looked. You had to figure out clues to do with Corvettes or the displays in the museum and take pictures with your camera to hopefully get them right.

Saturday September 5th

9am – 12pm Poker Run, 11am-3pm Digital Scavenger Hunt, 4pm – 6pm, plus a Tribute to the Beatles. Each Poker run was different and they send you off in a different direction each time. This proved to be costly ,as each place they sent us to was a good place to buy stuff. One of the stops was at an old train station (my grandson loves trains). After \$34.00 we were on our way. The next stop was an Ice Cream parlour, this place was rated 4.5 out of 5 in restaurant ratings and we had to try their milkshakes. The next was the Amish farmers market. I think they make the best candy. The free concert Saturday late afternoon was awesome, weather was a little too hot, but they played the Beatles music just as good as the real deal.

Saturday Night we all went out to Applebee's for the final supper together. Debbie & I, Roger & Angela and Betty-Mae were heading the next day for St. Clairsville, the rest was heading to Nashville for a few days. After supper we were invited out to a pool hall to play pool by Dan & Dave. It was karaoke night, most could not carry a tune in a bucket, but it was a fun night.



Sunday September 6th

Travel to St. Clairsville, Ohio, 437 miles and roughly 7 hours driving time, plus 1 hour for the time change. This was Debbie's birthday and we had a surprise party at Cracker Barrel that night. Our friends are still talking about our double Jacuzzi, big screen TV and mirrors everywhere. Plus it overlooked the huge pool, very nice.

Monday September 7th

Car Show at Cabella's. It was too bad that the weather was on the damp side, no real rain, but a couple of showers. They had 750 cars the year before and this year there was only 250. I have never seen so many trophy's given out at a show (160). We waited until trophy 118 for the longest distance which Betty-Mae won. We won one for Exceptional Vehicle.

Tuesday September 8th

Travelled to Hornell, 328 miles. Nice little town, we went shopping and I have never seen so many car wash places, we found 4 different self wash car wash places to wash our Corvettes. Introduced Friendly's (restaurant & they make their own ice cream) to Roger & Angela, food was very good, they make the best milkshakes.

Wednesday September 9th

Travel to Glass Museum, 45 miles, spent 4-5 hours there. We were going to make a pumpkin but the shipping costs were too high. Then we travelled to the Liverpool Hotel, 106 miles. What a great evening out with Roger & Angela, Betty-Mae.

We went to Fresno's for supper. They had a two can dine for \$20.00. You get one appetizer, we had Buffalo wings; two meals, Fish & Chips & Steak dinner; and a huge strawberry short-cake to share for desert. You should have seen this, it looked like something Jethro from the Beverly Hillbillies would have ordered, two biscuits, two scoops of ice cream covered with strawberries and whip cream. We went shopping and then back to the motel to talk over ideas for the next day.

Thursday September 10th

Some of the best back roads we have seen all trip. We went to the Herkimer Diamond Mines. Nobody struck it rich but we found a couple of rocks of interest. Then we were off to the hotel in Glens Falls, 160 miles.

When we got to Lake George the Corvettes and Hot Rods were rolling into town. About 150 Corvettes and 1800 Hot Rods came into town.

Directions to Roaring Brook Ranch – I87 to Exit 21, Left on Rt 9N, 1 mile turn left onto Roaring Brook Driveway (Zip 12845)

Friday September 11th

After having breakfast next door at the Silo. We went shopping, Lake George has a lot of discount outlets and it doesn't matter what you are looking for, I bet they have what you want.

After some shopping we went looking for The Roaring Brook Lodge which is where the registration for Vettefest was going to be that afternoon. Plus the Corvette show on Sunday. After we located the Lodge we went downtown to see the Hot Rod show. 1500 Hot Rods pre-registered for the Adirondack Nationals, another 300 cruised Canada Street. The nationals were from 7am – 5pm, and they started cruising Canada Street 7-10pm.

Adirondack Vettefest Registration 2:30-5, Water front car show at Lake George (beside Canada St.) 6:30-10pm, fireworks at 10pm. Fireworks delayed to Saturday Night.

Saturday September 12th

Adirondack Vettefest ~ 9am – 3pm Auto Cross at Prospect Mountain.

Our 03 took another beating on the mountain. There were 2 races, 3 times out on the track per race each. Debbie won first place in the first race, first place in the second race. She won Queen of the Mountain which is a trophy for being the fastest lady on the mountain. I got a 3rd each race in the mens group. I could have done better, but I ran out of talent. That night we went to the Roaring Brook Lodge for the 6pm-7pm Cocktails, 7-8:30 Dinner, 8:30 to whenever dance. We didn't stay very late as we all had to load our Corvettes so we would be ready to leave after the show the next day.

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Sunday September 13th

Adirondack Funfest Corvette Show 9am - 2pm. While I was waiting for us to check out I went out to clean the tires and rims to help get the car ready for the show when I noticed a problem with the front tires. We almost took the rubber off the front. I went in and made some phone calls looking for a tire shop that was open on Sunday that would have the size I wanted. I found a Firestone dealer that had 10 tires that would fit and he said he would take us right in when we got there. The dealer was 65 miles away so we went to the show and told Betty-Mae, Roger & Angela that we had to go and get tires on but will try to make it back before the show ended at 2pm. I think it was around 11am at this time. So away we went, the dealer was waiting for us and we drove into the bay. What a deal on tires, they are called Primewell PZ900 275/40R17 balanced and installed for \$100.00 each. They have a very good rain pattern.

We had dinner and made it back to the show at 1:45pm to join our friends before heading home. Heading for home means Lake George to Augusta, a total of 340 miles.

Monday September 14th

Augusta to Wentworth, 413 miles. It was a little bit of an aggressive drive home, just the way I like it. Roger & Angela suggested stopping into the Comeau Restaurant in Pennfield for dinner. They paid for our dinners in appreciation for all the planning and booking of rooms for everybody.

The appreciation is all ours, this would not have been near the trip without some friends. And I have to tell you I think it is really something when you take into consideration that we ate almost every meal together, stayed in the same hotels, did almost all the events together and after 3 weeks of driving and hanging out we are still friends, pretty good indeed. Thanks to everyone that went on the trip, I hope it will not be the last one, but I'm afraid that without Doug organizing the next Caravan it probably will not be 18 Corvettes going to Bowling Green. I would like to thank Doug for all his patience in organizing this trip. It was too bad a business deal came up at the last minute so he could not go.

We have already informed Charley O that we are going in 2013 for the 60th anniversary of the Corvette, especially if there is going to be more road racing involved.