



Acadia Region Corvette Club

A Club for Corvette Enthusiasts Since 2008

President's Letter for March 2022



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ARCC Members & Friends—

With March here and the days being very noticeably longer and brighter, Carol and I have on occasion ventured into our barn to see the two covered shapes in the back that we hope our flashing and (we hope, screaming in the ultrasonic) mouse repeller is safely defending. It's good to be able to think about taking our cars out of winter storage for another cruising season. Especially in light of the very unsettling news in the rest of the world. This cruising season for the Deans will be particularly "interesting," in that we have absolutely no idea of what features are on our new-to-us ride, *Sunshine*, or how to use the ones we know it has. Good thing we have the owner's manual! And *Sweet Potato* if we get really confused with the 2007's many options.

Until we dare take our cars out for season, there are a few plans that I hope will keep us excited about the coming year. One of these is the **photo scavenger hunt** I've mentioned over the past couple of months. Details of what we hope to pull off are found at the end of this letter. But the important point is that this can be either a competitive game or simply a list of cleverly disguised destinations to guide your cruising fun. Whether it's a game or simply fun is up to you, but if we get five or more participants (individuals, couples, or teams) Pat Minier has promised prizes. Let me know if you are interested.

And lastly (for this month)... Do you have a **vanity plate** on your 'Vette? If you do, would you like it to be part of a new photo montage I want to create? You might remember that in my October letter I had a montage of vanity plates from our Corvette Autumn show, which included both club member plates and others. Now I want to recreate that montage with ARCC member plates only. If you are interested, take a high-resolution close-up photo of your plate—either on or off the car—and email it to me. Try to hold your camera/phone level and square to the plate so the resulting image looks at least close to rectangular.

At February's Meeting

Attendees at the February meeting discussed potential changes to the **Club bylaws**. After some very spirited discussions, the group settled on a collection of editorial, clarifying, and substantive changes to be proposed to the membership at large. These were described in the meeting

In a Corvette every trip is an adventure!

minutes, as was the plan to distribute the proposed amended bylaws for a vote by Club members before the April meeting. The noteworthy change for present members is that we propose to eliminate "family" memberships and have "individual" memberships only. Couples who previously had a "family" membership would each have to have their own membership. It is worth noting that there has been no change to the cost of an individual membership; it is still half of the current family membership. Other changes affect prospective members only. I will be emailing a copy of the proposed amended bylaws to each Club member in the next couple of days. Please take time to read them over. Our current bylaws say that a vote on the proposed amendment is to take place "by the Active Members at a subsequent Regular Meeting." I plan to hold that vote during the March meeting on **Tuesday, March 22nd**, conducted over Zoom. **If you would like to have a say in the bylaws decision, please plan on attending.**

Upcoming Activities

I think we all know about our **mid-winter luncheon/social** on the 19th. But if you've been waffling about whether to attend or not and have finally decided to go, here is the URL for Diane's "Doodle" where you can sign up and indicate what you will bring.

https://doodle.com/poll/9utnvpe5w4tuitrm?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Another upcoming event is the **photo scavenger hunt**, but for now I've already said all there is to say on that one—see the last two pages of this letter.

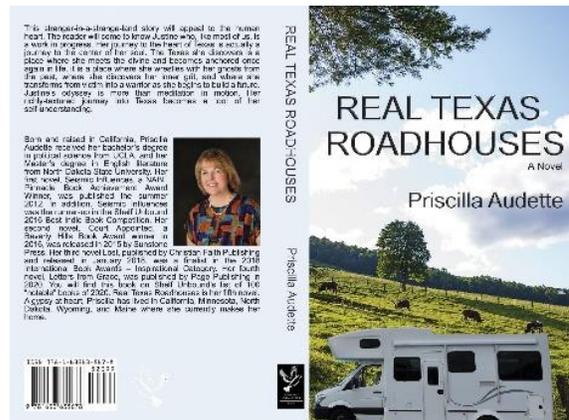
Looking outside our club, I see from reading club newsletters from various New England clubs that there are many **Corvette events scheduled for this coming summer**. Just to whet your cruising appetite, here a few of those that are relatively close by:

- North Shore (MA) Corvettes' Vettes-to-Vets fundraiser, May 22
- Gate City Corvette Club's "Spring Fling" in Merrimack, NH, May 29
- The VOCCM Bar Harbor weekend, June 2–5
- The *Back to the Beach* Corvette weekend in Old Orchard Beach, ME, June 9–12
- Southern NH Corvette's *Super Meet & Greet*, sometime in July or August (date is TBA)
- Corvette Club of Rhode Island's 50th *Corvettes by the Sea* in N. Kingston, RI, August 14

Let's all hope that this year can be an "old time" season for cruising and events!

People & Places

ARCC member Priscilla Audette recently announced the launch of her fifth book "Real Texas Roadhouses," a novel about a woman journeying into the heart of Texas and discovers she is really journeying to the center of her soul. (Sadly, the main character travels through Texas in a little RV and not a 'Vette.) You can find Priscilla's book on Amazon or any bookstore. They might not have it on their shelf, but they can order it.



Member Celebrations

March Birthdays

Sharon Bates	Kirsten Stiles
Ruth Brunetti	Dave Coomer
Rick Gaspar, Sr.	Christian Houmiller
Jackie Kelly	Doug Lee

April Birthdays

Priscilla Audette
Charlene Clemens
Phyllis Houp
John Styles

March Anniversaries

Dave & Gloria Coomer
Eric & Carol Judson
John & Kirsten Stiles

April Anniversaries

Don & Cindy Blanchett

Corvette News

Check out this website for an “interesting” article on what can only be described as “imitation Corvettes”... <https://www.hotcars.com/modern-japanese-roadsters-perfectly-mimic-classic-corvettes/>. It's about a car company founded in 1996 called Mitsuoka. Mitsuoka is a “tiny, boutique Japanese company” that specializes in customizing vehicles; their latest is called the Mitsuoka Rock Star. The article says, “Mitsuoka has centered the Rock Star on the Mazda MX-5 Miata and features a body modeled after a second-generation Chevrolet Corvette Stingray. Below are photos of two of their latest model, the “LHD Only1 Exclusive.” The only saving grace is that the article also goes on to say, “It has much of the bulges and chrome that made the C2 Corvette cool, yet it isn't quite Vette-like.” This version of the Rock Star would set you back over \$86,000... not including the \$4600 cost of the lottery ticket that would determine if you were one of the lucky 50 people who would get to own one.



A Little Corvette Quiz

We all likely know that the Corvette was introduced in 1953. Do you know *where* it was introduced, both the event and the place? And if you get that, do you know the date?

Final Thoughts

COVID concerns and restrictions have made this past winter difficult for all of us. But our difficulties, both locally and nationally, pale in comparison to what those in eastern Europe will continue to experience, probably for years to come. As we look forward to what we all hope is a return to a more normal season of enjoying our friends and our cars, remember to be especially thankful for what we have here.



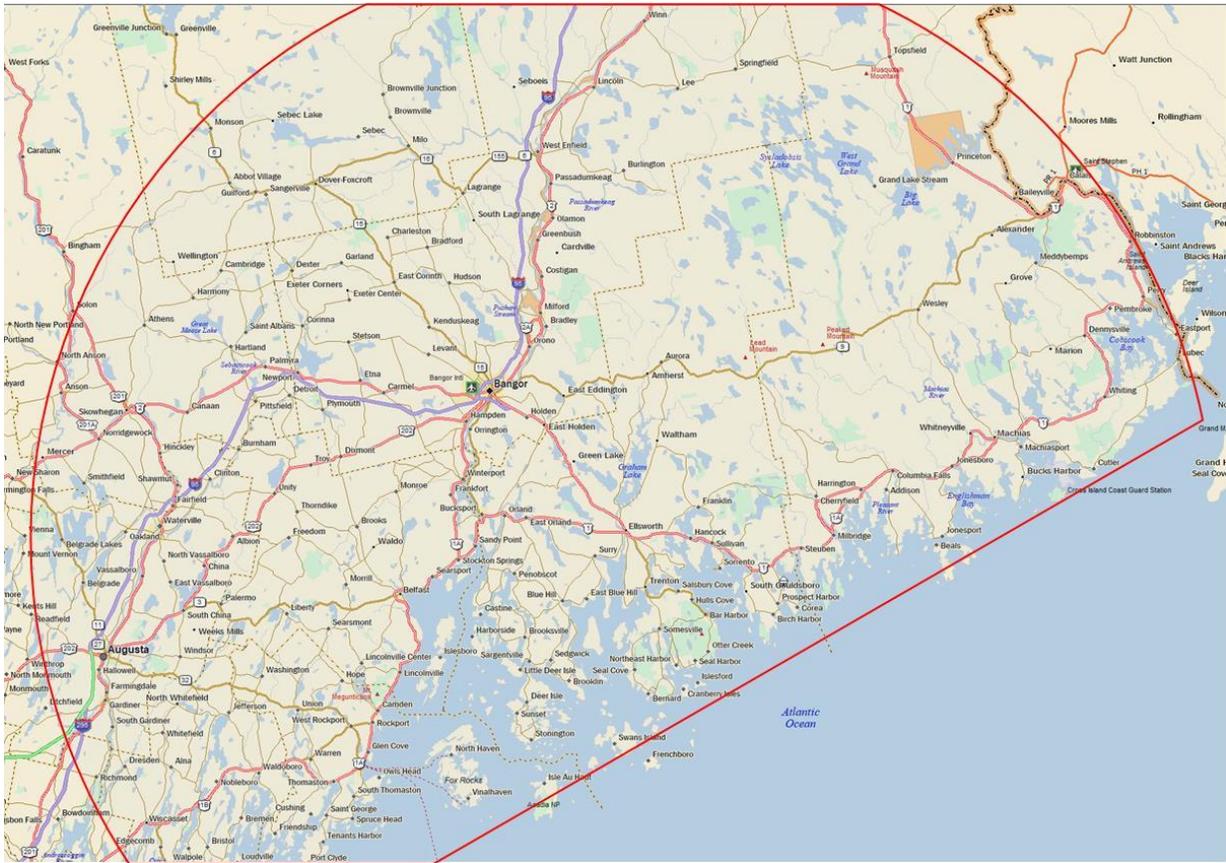
Roger Dean
President, ARCC

Don't forget to change your calendar for the March and April club meetings. They will each be held a day earlier than our normal meeting days. ***The March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 22nd***; the April meeting will be on Tuesday, April 26th. The March meeting will be held over Zoom; we'll decide on the format for the April meeting in early April.

ARCC Photo Scavenger Hunt

In the February President's letter I commented that Carol and I think a photo scavenger hunt would be good summer cruising fun. So we put one together. Here's what we have in mind:

The Game. The game will run all cruising season, from April 1st to Halloween. The objective—in addition to answering the question “Where should we go today?” giving us all someplace definite to take our cars—is to decipher riddles, identify the place or object, drive there (in your 'Vette), take note of the date and time, and photograph the place or thing with your car in the photo (if possible). There are over 60 target locations, so there is lots to choose from no matter where in the Ellsworth-Bangor area you live. More than half are within a 25-mile radius of Ellsworth, all but one is with a 50-mile radius, and all are within about a 3-hour drive of downtown Ellsworth one way. Below is a map showing the area for most (but not all) items in the scavenger hunt; a few of the targets are a bit beyond the area shown but are interesting enough to justify the extra drive. If you are clever and plan your route well, you might just discover that you can hit multiple targets in a single drive.



How You Play. If we can get enough interest people doing this as a game, we'll have prizes that will be awarded at next December's Christmas party. Here are the rules: You earn one point for each correct target, with “bonus targets” being worth two points. If you get completely stuck and decide you need some hints, they will cost you one-quarter point each. Teams of no more than two couples/individuals are OK, but there will only be a single prize for any team. The person/couple/team with the most points (correct answers... with photos!) will win. You may consult with family members and friends to decipher the riddles but, please, no other Club members unless you

define yourselves to be a "team." There is no entry fee and no set time limit but ties will be resolved by the earliest date/time of the last photo of a correctly identified place/object.

What You Are Looking For. The list of "targets" (locations/objects) in this game is by no means a comprehensive compilation of places of interest in Maine, nor are the targets of any consistent category or description. They are simply places that I thought might be fun to find as game participants tour some of the roads in our part of Maine. They are also ones that lent themselves easily to a rhyming riddle clue. Each target will be identified in a riddle; some will be fairly obvious and some just plain obscure. Some targets are bona fide tourist attractions, some are interesting or scenic spots, some are noteworthy establishments, some are ordinary but well-known places, and some are just plain unusual. But nearly all riddles will contain clues to both the town/location and, where appropriate, the target object. A few targets, however, are so well known that I focused on the object (only) with the clue rather than making it too easy by drawing attention to the location. In all cases, if you correctly decipher the riddle, the target location/object will be visible from the road. There are no "red herrings" meant to mislead you; everything in the riddles is accurate, if somewhat obtuse. *Pay attention to unexpected words or spellings in the riddles; they are deliberate.* All this sounds simple, right? Some riddle clues will be really easy to solve, others not so much. Some will have you thinking long and hard to figure out where to go or what to find. For some targets the best approach might be to identify the town then figure out the specific location/place/item. Others could be the reverse: figure out what it is you are looking for and then try to determine the town.

Example. Below is an example of a riddle along with an explanation of the clues. My handful of test subjects all thought this was easy to solve. I've underlined the clue words in the riddle (something that I won't do for the game) so you can see how certain words in the riddle clearly identify the location/thing. You should quickly see that this riddle identifies ***Ellsworth's Big Chicken Barn*** antique shop on Rt 1 headed toward Bucksport.

On Rt 1 plots do thicken, at a place that's known for chicken. Once a huge barn now a store, it has antiques by the score.

Interested? If this sounds like something you are interested in doing, please let me know at or before our mid-winter party on March 19th, where I'll have game packages for anyone interested. *If we can get at least five couples/individuals/teams to participate, it will be a go as a game. Otherwise you can consider the riddles as a way to determine "Where should we go today?" without the pressure of competition.* And either way, if you decide you want a package after the 19th, just let me know and I'll email you one.

Getting Started. Here are four of the actual riddle clues to tickle your curiosity and get you thinking:

Near Schoodic's National Park, seen by day and by the dark, stands a man both tall and yellow, he's a truly fishy fellow.

Along on Route 1 is a place just for of fun. It's a nutty old spot, dinosaur in the lot.

Is it 179 or 175? It all depends on which way you drive. Stop and stretch for a while, then drive on in style.

On the road past old Rt 1, sits a place for summer fun. It's an odd place you will feel, a stage is there plus Ferris wheel.

Have fun! Carol and I did picking these places and coming up with the riddles.