

Corvette club comes to McCall

BY CARISSA SINDON

For The Star-News

Ten years ago, at age 50, Doug Wikfors bought his first Corvette when he saw a new snowball white C5 coupe at a Chevrolet dealership in Boise.

"When I saw that car sitting there, I pictured myself in it," said Wikfors, of Eagle. "The more I looked at it, the more I decided 'you only live once.'"

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Events included a show-n-shine, autocross competition and drag race in the Boise area before culminating in a cruise along U.S. 95 from Boise to McCall.

All colors and decades of the car, which was first manufactured in 1953, were on display for the public to view Saturday afternoon among the tall pines at Ponderosa State Park.

Most of the club's members are in their 50s and 60s and have wanted to own a Corvette since high school, said member Brent Jones of Meridian who owns a 1998 silver C5 convertible.

"After the kids kind of get out of college and you can start building up a little bit of a nest egg and you start thinking, gosh the years are clicking away and you want to feel young again," said Wikfors, who chaired the event.

Club members share a passion for the cars, which Wikfors said are beautiful, drive like no other car he has driven and exhibit highly advanced handling.

In 2006 Wikfors upgraded to a Le Mans blue C6 Z06

Wikfors was one of more than 100 Corvette owners who drove their cars to McCall on Saturday as part of the 19th bi-annual VetteFest 2011. The event is sponsored by the Valley Corvettes, an organization of Corvette enthusiasts based in Boise.

The three-day VetteFest pays tribute to what the club calls "America's sports car" and saw the participation of 14 car clubs from across the Northwest.

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Doug Wikfors of Eagle polishes his 2006 Le Mans blue C6 Z06 Corevette on Saturday as part of VetteFest 2011 festivities held at Ponderosa State Park in McCall.

Photo for The Star-News by Carissa Sindon

which he described as a "total rocket."

"If you're going up and down hills or around hairpin turns, they hug the road like no other car," he said.

Jeff Houk came from Reno, Nev., with his 2001 black C5 convertible to participate in the event.

"They're American-made classic iconic cars and should be celebrated and I hope they never stop making them," Houk said.

But not all Corvette enthusiasts are men. Club member Kim Reynolds of Boise bought her first Corvette six weeks ago, a 2008 jet stream blue C6 Z06, with her husband,

Tracy.

The couple owned German sports cars before, but opted for the Corvette because it had the performance for which they were looking.

"For that kind of performance in a Porsche, you would have to pay \$120,000," Kim Reynolds said, noting that the couple paid \$54,000

for their car.

The club has the only specialty Corvette license plate in the U.S., with the club's proceeds from the plates going to support children's charities in Idaho, said president Vincent Muller of Star. For more information about Valley Corvettes, go to www.valleycorvettes.org.

Originally Published August 4, 2011 in:

