

CTV – Here is an account of my participating in the “**Vettes and Jets on the Lex 2013**” event on 14/15 Sep 2013 onboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington docked as a museum in Corpus Christi, TX. My recollection of the weekend:

Every two years the “**Vettes and Jets on the Lex**” takes place. This year’s event proudly supported The Wounded Warrior Project – and 10 Wounded Warriors and their families were the honored guests. I’d never done the event before but Mary Anne had done the first one back in 1998 so we signed up last spring. We drove down on Fri with the Warrell’s from Tin Hall Toys and the Hofer’s from the Longhorn Corvette Club (long time friend of Mary Anne’s). The Warrell’s yellow Z06 “Jake” is the former McGovern’s (CTV) car, and the Hofers drove their 04 Commemorative blue. [pic 833 shows all three cars cleaned Fri afternoon]

Typically the event plans on 350 corvettes on deck and this year they were joined by a dozen aircraft on display too. I really enjoyed that because I’d flown three versions of the 12 – OK, they were the Air Force and Army versions of the Navy ones on display – same aircraft but different paint!

Loading on the carrier started at 0500 AM on Sat morning. The limiting factor is that the elevator can only fit 14 corvettes going up. By 0715 all corvettes and one metal pickup were aboard. Early morning cleaning of the cars with the towering thunderstorm in the background is evident in pic 837. The weather was typical of the coast – clear, then cloudy with droplets, overcast with rain, then clear again! The wind was pretty brisk both days and definitely a “bad hair day” for both men and women! The schedule on Sat included the noon Opening Ceremonies, Wreath/Flag Ceremony, a 1941 Steerman bi-wing fly-by, a special live auction, and a 7PM BBQ dinner and an “Adult” comedy show. You had ample time to look at all the cars and take pictures. The live auction was for a 45-minute ride in the Steerman! Five rides were auctioned off – anywhere from \$500 to \$800 were the final bids. Most importantly was that all the funds went to the Wounded Warrior Project.

The second day (Sun) was a little wet at times but still a good time was had by all. The noon ceremony was by Bags and Pipes from the Corpus Christi Fire Dept., followed by a silent auction, another live auction, and the Special Awards. The live auction was again very lively – in addition to the normal paintings, etc., were a two day fishing trip, a trip to Vegas to the Monster event, and a special bed & mattress that articulate and vibrated. But what was special about those three items was that a wounded warrior was also to receive the same prize! WOW, talk about a special event.

In viewing and taking a few pictures of the vettes I noted that only 6 C-1s and 5 C-2s were on display. All the rest were C-3s thru C-6s. Of the 6 C-1s there were 4 real C-1s and two Classic Reflection Coachworks (CRC) – my ’62 Almond Beige (“Ann”) and a red CRC from Colorado. [“Ann” is at pic 843 while the Red CRC is at pic 841] A very interesting snippet is that the red CRC is production unit #5 while Ann is production unit # 6!

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I had to have my picture taken next to the USS South Dakota display – my home state growing up on the farm. [\[pic 856\]](#)

The Special Awards were where various sponsors chose their “favorite corvette”. I recall ~ 10 to 12 being given: the Warrell’s yellow Z06 “Jake” was selected and my 62 CRC “Ann” also received a sponsor award – rather nice considering the number of corvettes on display. The red CRC ’62 also received a sponsor award and he and I are shown with “Maverick”, the MC, holding our award mugs. [\[pic 857\]](#)

Mary Ann and I wore our Tail of the Dragon shirts and posed on the bench to prove that we were on the USS Lexington! [\[pic 847\]](#)

Each car entrant received a certificate – mine was #85 of 350 and most of the sponsor awards were mugs [as shown in pic 865](#).

Unloading the corvettes only took ~ one hour – even though it rained for a short time – I had the top down and was within 100’ of the ramps end when it hit – yep – got wet! But what an event!

If the Lexington is available in two years they hope to have another event – I’d recommend it to everyone.

/Doc/