

# Corvette show cruises into town

While some kids have a crush on their third grade teacher, young **Dwayne Bublitz** had a crush on his teacher's car, a '66 silver Corvette.

"He would just stand at the chain link fence with his little fingers poking through and just stare at the car," said his former teacher **Sarah Cromer**.

## Around the Town

ABBIE GRIPMAN

That crush blossomed into a full-blown, life-long love affair with America's favorite sports car — and ultimately into an event that will draw some 200 Corvettes to Flagstaff during the second annual Corvette'N America Road Tour, today, Friday and Saturday.

"We are so thrilled about the excitement that this tour has generated," said event developer and coordinator **Cindy Bublitz**. "Last year we had over 200 participants and for 2006 we've already doubled that. The community will get to see 53 years of Corvettes from the current 2006 to the gorgeous classics of the '50s and '60s."

Corvette owners from 20 states, including General Motors design and engineering geniuses **Arv Mueller** and **Jerry Palmer** and Corvette Fever magazine editor **Alan Colvin** will arrive at Little America this afternoon for the weekend event.

On Friday morning, the Sam's Club parking lot will host major horsepower as it serves as the staging area for The Sedona Tour. One by one, these muscle cars are scheduled to leave the lot at 8:30 a.m., caravan to I-40, then to I-17 to the Pulliam Airport Exit to Highway 89A. From here the tour will weave through the fragrant ponderosa pine forest, gliding along the switchbacks of scenic Oak Creek Canyon and motor in to the heart of Red Rock Country. The day trip will follow the same path in reverse, taking the + Walnut Canyon Exit from I-40 east of Flagstaff, traveling historic Route 66 into town and arriving at The Museum Club at about 4:30 p.m. Spectators may park along the route.

"One of the best places to witness this stream of power and glitz will be from the overlook at the top of the switchbacks," said Dwayne Bublitz. "We expect the first cars to arrive at that area by about 8:40 a.m."

Another opportunity to gaze at the 'Vettes, talk with the owners and meet the GM men behind the Corvette's power and design will be the Show & Shine event at Flagstaff High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. Admission is \$5; children



Courtesy Photo

**TOUGH CORVETTE JUDGES FAITH**, then 5, and **Kirsten**, then 7, Bublitz have the responsibility of choosing the best cars for "The Cutie" awards during the Corvette'N America Show. Faith chose this yellow 2000 Corvette last year whose owners are Bill and Sheri Akers of Tucson.

ages 12 and younger get in free. Twenty percent of admission sales from the Show & Shine will benefit Flagstaff Unified School District. Last year that amount was \$500. This year the Bublitzs say they are hoping to make it \$1,000.

"It's been a good partnership for the Flagstaff Unified School District community to host the Corvette show," said FUSD Superintendent **Kevin Brown**. "In return the school has received some needed funds to help support programs. I encourage everyone to come out and see some beautiful cars."

Throughout the weekend, Corvettes are expected to adorn the parking lots of restaurants and hotels such as Buster's Restaurant and Bar, Picazzo's Gourmet Pizza and Salads, Miz Zip's, Little America, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Quinta, Quality Inn and Holiday Inn Express.

Since those third-grade days of dreaming by the fence, Bublitz and his family have become Corvette collectors and enthusiasts. Two of their sports cars won the prestigious "Top Flight" award from the National Corvette Restorers Society last month. Meanwhile, the woman who inspired this appreciation for Corvettes, Mrs. Cromer, will continue encouraging her former student from the sidelines of the weekend's events.

For more information and \$1 off coupons for the Show & Shine, log onto [www.corvette-n-america.com](http://www.corvette-n-america.com), go to the event page and click on "public event."