

Cruise Night in Bergen, Norway

by Charles F. Falk

During our travels through Norway, my wife and I visited the beautiful coastal town of Bergen. One of its main attractions is the harbor – everyone gravitates there. Interesting old buildings with shops ring the harbor and vibrant market stalls abound on the pier and frame the large yachts in the water. It was a Friday night and like all tourists, we gravitated to the harbor to watch the people and see what was going on.

Once there, I was stopped dead in my tracks by the realization that Friday night was Cruise Night in Bergen, and there, right on the quay beside the harbor were four red Corvettes. One was a C-2, two were C-5s, and one was a C-6. People clamored around the cars and wanted to talk with the owners about them.

Toward the end of our travels, we drove from Gothenburg, Sweden to

Copenhagen, Denmark. Enroute, we paused in the town of Varberg on Sweden's Southwest Coast to get some coffee and use the facilities at a McDonald's located in a rest stop complex. There were two separate parking lots in the complex, so I didn't catch on right away, but as we left we saw 20 Vettes of different vintages parked in the second lot. I didn't have time to investigate, but I assumed that it was a car club out on a rally.

Our trip to Scandinavia wasn't supposed to have much to do with my interest in cars. However, we kept stumbling across car-related situations. We stayed in Gieranger, Norway for a night and discovered that car club members from Amsterdam drove four vintage sports cars (a Porsche, an MG, an Austin-Healy, and a BMW) there on a long weekend. One of the owners told me that although all four of the cars had, at one time, been the U.S.,

they had been returned to Europe. He thought that was an interesting oddity, and I agreed.

I didn't know it, but a Norwegian friend turned out to be a "car guy." He was a member of the Norwegian American Car Club and one afternoon showed me copies of his club's magazines. It included photos of American cars photographed all over Norway and editorial copy printed in Norwegian.

In short, cars – especially American cars – are a popular hobby in Europe. CNCC members should know that the Vettes we fancy here in Chicagoland are admired very much in Scandinavia. As for me, I'm now driving my third Corvette – a silver 2001 Targa Top Coupe. ●

Charles F. Falk shared his European Corvette experiences with Larry Nelson during a Cruise Night in Rolling Meadows last summer.

