



Keepin' Track - SLO Vettes

The Official Newsletter of the Corvette Club of San Luis Obispo County

April Issue

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Cover Page

Monthly Newsletter

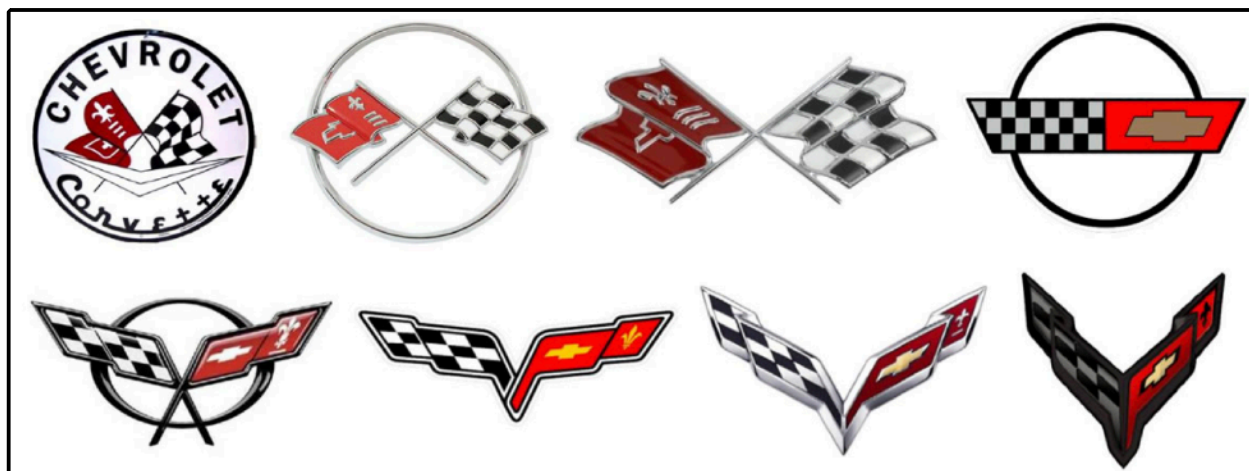
April 2025



SLO Vettes Visits the Reagan Library & Nethercutt Museum

In early March an even dozen of SLO Vettes cars headed south to visit two magnificent museums, The Ronald Reagan Library on Friday and the Nethercutt Museum on Saturday. Dinner at the Wrecking Yard was delightful, and everyone thought the event was a great success. So a tip o' the hat to VP Doug Williamson and NCM Ambassador Don Allen for a fantastic job of planning the event. That's Ron's Air Force One by the way.

Next SLO Vettes Meeting: Friday, April 14
Chevy of San Luis Obispo, 1423 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA
Meet & Greet, 6:00 PM - Meeting begins at 6:30 PM



	
CLUB OFFICERS	
PRESIDENT - CRAIG BRICKER	
VICE-PRESIDENT - DOUG WILLIAMSON	
SECRETARY - DENISE SURBER	
TREASURER - JAN DALLONS	
EVENTS - BOB FURSTER	
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NCM AMBASSADOR - DON ALLEN	
SUNSHINE/HISTORIAN - JEANNE ALLEN	
MERCHANDIZE - JAN DALLONS	
WEBMASTER - JON DALLONS	
NEWSLETTER - RUSS SURBER	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Page 3
Vice President's Message	Page 3-4
Minutes for November Meeting	Page 4-7
Events Chairs's Message	Page 7
NCM Ambassador's Report	Page 7-18
Sunshine Report	Page 19
Tales of Corvette Racing	Page 20-21
Dept. of Really Weird Stuff	Page 22
The Final Word	Page 23-24
Flyer: Vintage Cowboy Run April 19	Page 25
2025 SLO Vettes Events Calendar	Page 26

President

Craig Bricker



Depending on the date that you read this Newsletter article, Rhonda and I will be somewhere in the Southern Caribbean close to finishing up an eleven-day cruise to seven different ports of call. We decided to take a nice vacation to celebrate 30 years of marriage. Since we both like warm weather, the Caribbean was our first choice to visit.

Thanks to Doug Williamson and Don Allen for planning the Reagan Library and Nethercutt Museum event. This was a year in the making as it was cancelled last year, however, it was well worth the wait for those that attended.

On our SLO Vette website – www.slovettes.org - there is a page that list “members”. On this page are pictures of SLO Vette members standing next to their Corvette. When our website crashed about a year and a half ago, we lost all our photos and articles. This is an important page on our website, especially for new members who want to see our members and their cars. Look at this page and if your picture is not shown, I would ask that you to take a picture standing next to your Corvette and send the picture to Jon Dallons who will post it on our website. Jon’s email address to receive the pictures is kb6taz@gmail.com.

For those that may not read every article in this Newsletter, I would ask that you take the time to read Russ Surber’s “Final Word” column that can be found on pages 23-24 at that back of this newsletter.

Stay safe while driving. Hope to see everyone soon!

Craig Bricker
President
805-471-2945

Vice-President

Doug Williamson



Hello SLO Vettes and Happy April! On March 7th I had the privilege of leading 12 Corvettes on the caravan to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. We all gathered at the Pismo Beach outlet mall at 8:30 AM on Friday March 7th and headed out for the

143-mile drive to the library arriving there around 11:30 AM. If you haven't been to the Reagan, I highly recommend you put it on your things to do list. After we all finished visiting the library, we all ended up at the Courtyard by Marriott in Simi Valley for the overnight. Then at 6:00PM Friday evening we all saddled up again and headed to the Junk Yard Café in Simi Valley for a group dinner. The café truly lived up to its name and provided us with a different experience most of us anticipated. The food and staff were great, we even sang Happy Birthday to Jon Dallons and Bob Furster.

After a good night's rest, we once again all gathered Saturday morning and 10 cars left Simi Valley for the 24-mile caravan to the Nethercutt Auto Museum and Collection in Sylmar, CA where we went on a guided tour of the private collection. That was an incredible experience. The Nethercutt had on display some of the finest and rarest automobiles I've seen, allowing you to get up-close and really check out them out. They had the finest Packards, Duesenbergs, Rolls Royce and so on, all Pebble Beach quality restorations. In addition, they displayed a super fine collection of Musical Instruments including player pianos, giant music boxes and pipe organs. Once again, I highly recommend you add it to your to do list if you haven't already been there. At the conclusion of the tour, we all went on our way and motored home. Over all it was an awesome 2 days. I want to Thank all of you who participated in making this such a great caravan.

Now on to club business, our membership remained the same with no new members for March. We have 46 memberships with 81 persons on the roster. Remember to talk up your club and invite other Corvette owners you meet to consider joining our club. SLO Vettes is a fun place to be. Happy motoring and remember the wave.

Doug Williamson
Vice President and Membership Chair
Cell 805-709-8253



SLO Vettes March 2025 Meeting

Date: March 14, 2025 Location: Chevy SLO

Call to Order: 6:30 pm
Club Attendees: 15
Board Members: All Present

Committee Chairs: Present, except NCM Ambassador Don Allen and Sunshine Chair Jeanne Allen

President, Craig Bricker

Craig thanked VP Doug Williamson for the excellent run last weekend to the Reagan Library & Museum and the Nethercutt Museum. Participants loved both Museums and the restaurant chosen for dinner. The musical instruments collection at the Nethercutt was an unexpected highlight.

President Craig asked each member to name a place they haven't visited but would really like to go to see. Members mentioned various locations around the world as "bucket list" options.

Vice President/Membership Chair, Doug Williamson

The Club currently has 46 paid up renewing and new memberships, which Doug "guestimated" represent about 82 individual members. He estimates we may have 57 memberships once he receives all renewals, representing just under 100 individual members.

Secretary, Denise Surber

No additions or changes were noted for the Minutes of the meeting on February 14 as printed in the March newsletter. Bob Furster moved, and Russ Surber seconded, to approve the Minutes as written, and the Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer, Jan Dallons

Jan presented the Treasurer's monthly Profit and Loss Statement for the period February 14 through March 14 and the 2025 Year-to-Date Statement. Russ Surber made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dave Naumann seconded it, and the Motion carried unanimously.

Events Chair, Bob Furster

Upcoming events include:

April 19 - Vintage Cowboy Winery Run (Organizer Russ Surber will have a flyer out soon)

May 2-3 - Morro Bay Car Show & associated activities (Organizer Harold Davis)

May 10 - BBQ at the Weed's Home

July 4 - 4th of July BBQ at the Dallons' Home

Jul (TBD) - PCPA Play at Solvang Festival Theater & overnight (Organizer Bob Furster will have details about dates and the play soon)

Sept 26-28 - Mystery Tour (Organized by the Dallons and Surbers)

Nov. (TBD) - Annual Toy Run

Dec 4 - Christmas Party, Embassy Suite in SLO (a Thursday), a block of hotel rooms will be available for those wanting overnight accommodations (Organizer Jan Dallons will provide more details later)

Sunshine, by Kathy Naumann for Sunshine Chair Jeanne Allen

Kathy read the March birthdays and anniversaries from Jeanne's list as printed in the March newsletter.

National Corvette Museum (NCM), Dave Naumann for Museum Ambassador Don Allen

Dave shared a few highlights of NCM events and happenings: The annual Michelin Bash is coming soon, there is hope for a new Corvette model (a Grand Sport perhaps?) since the production plant may be shutting down to tool up for a new one, David Hill is the Museum's new CEO, and there is a new member on the Board of Directors. The "big news" is that there is a glut of C8s to the tune of 5,550 or more cars unsold and available. Costco is selling a new C8 with a \$3,000 discount. Check out Don's article in the newsletter for more.

Corvette Racing, Russ Surber

The 12 Hours of Sebring will be held over the coming weekend. Pratt Miller is painting the Corvette that is running in white with a blue stripe, just as the car was painted in 1956. Corvettes could win, but you never know about these things until the race is over.

Newsletter, Russ Surber

Thursday, March 27, is the deadline for the April edition.

Website, Jon Dallons

Jon worked on the website today. He added photographs from the Reagan and Nethercutt Museums, but he needs more pictures. Also needed are photos of members with their cars. When we changed to a new website provider, we lost the photos from the old website. That means that he no longer has photos of members with cars from before the change.

Merchandise, Jan Dallons

Jan reminded attendees that she has merchandise available for sale and that she can order a variety of items.

Other Business

Doug Williamson offered a "heads up" about insurance. An increase in mileage can result in an unexpected and dramatic increase in insurance rates. This happened to him after his insurance company asked him for the mileage on his Corvette, which he had driven last summer on the Corvette Museum run to Bowling Green. The mileage report represented an unusual, one-time increase in the miles he normally drives his Corvette each year, but his insurer (not the one associated with the Museum) did not view it as a one-time, unusual occurrence and raised his insurance rate accordingly. Insurance available through the Museum has a better deal.

50/50 Drawing - \$45 was collected. Tom Wilkins was the lucky winner who took home \$22.50.

Next Monthly Meeting

Date: April 11, 2025

Location: Chevy SLO

Meet & Greet: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Begins: 6:30 p.m. Sharp!



It's already almost April and the weather is turning so it's time to get out and join the SLO Vettes events. On April 19th the SLO Vettes club will be taking a run out to the Vintage Cowboy Winery. I'm sure it will be lots of fun and well organized as our very own Russ Surber is heading up this adventure. Be sure to let Russ know if you plan on attending or not. Lori and I plan on going and hope to see as many of you out there as possible. Up coming in May is the Morro Bay Car show on the weekend of the 3rd and the annual Weeds BBQ and run on the 10th.

Be safe out there, enjoy life... drive your Corvette(s).

Bob Furster

Events Coordinator



National Corvette Museum Update



Greetings SLO Vette members. I trust you appreciated Dave Naumann's generosity at the March meeting where he stood in for me and reported on Museum activities. Jeanne is recovering from another total knee replacement and we hope to attend the April meeting. Many thanks to Dave and Kathy for filling in for us.

Museum News and Events

On April 24-26, 2025 the NCM will team with Michelin Tires to kick off the event season and present the 28th Annual NCM Michelin Bash. The Bash is often used by GM to introduce the public to new models, colors, and technical advances.

As in past years, this event offers seminars and classroom sessions, guided road tours, special exhibit presentations, and an NCM-Judged car show. One of the feature displays at this year's Bash will be Zora Arkus-Duntov's personal 1978 Corvette. You can review the tentative agenda and register for the event at: https://www.corvettemuseum.org/bash/?mc_cid=39c9d90000&mc_eid=03813d0017#event-agenda

New Exhibits

Dale Earnhardt C5-R and Letters to Andy Pilgrim



This new exhibit includes the C5.R race car that competed at the 12 Hours of Sebring and the 24 Hours of Daytona along with a personal letter from Dale Earnhardt, Sr., written days before he died in a last-lap crash at the Daytona 500.

Dale Sr. had been watching the 2000 Petit Le Mans live at the time and in the closing laps of the race, Corvette Racing driver Andy Pilgrim made a daring move. As he approached turn one, Pilgrim quickly cut to the inside of Tommy Archer's Dodge Viper and ran side by side with him going into the corner. The two cars never touched, and Archer wound up sliding off course, allowing Pilgrim to take the lead. This move, which became known as the "Pilgrim Pass," sealed the victory for Corvette Racing.

A few days after the race, Pilgrim was shocked to receive a letter from Earnhardt congratulating him on the victory. Earnhardt also expressed interest in being Pilgrim's Corvette Racing teammate for the 2001 24 Hours of Daytona. Two weeks later, at a press conference at Earnhardt's Mooresville, North Carolina race shop, Chevrolet announced that Earnhardt and his son, Dale Jr., would indeed compete with Pilgrim and Kelly Collins at Daytona in a Corvette C5-R.

Pilgrim and Earnhardt Sr. became good friends as they prepared for the race. Earnhardt had never driven a racing Corvette before and leaned on Pilgrim's expertise for how to maximize the performance of the C5-R. The Corvette that the Earnhardts, Pilgrim, and Collins drove at Daytona was the same chassis (C5-R #004) that Pilgrim had raced in the Petit Le Mans, but the race number was changed from four to three to match the elder Earnhardt's number in NASCAR.

The 2001 Daytona race resulted in a major victory for Corvette Racing. Johnny O'Connell, Ron Fellows, Chris Kneifel, and Franck Fréon won both the GTS class and the overall victory in the number two C5-R. Pilgrim, Collins, and the Earnhardts finished 14 laps behind their teammates to earn second in the GTS class and fourth overall.

A few days after the race, Pilgrim received a second letter from Earnhardt Sr. thanking him for his guidance and friendship. Earnhardt reiterated his interest in being Pilgrim's teammate again, but he never got the chance. A last lap crash in the Daytona 500 took Earnhardt's life just 13 days after he wrote his second letter to Pilgrim. The 2001 24 Hours of Daytona would unfortunately be Earnhardt's only start with Corvette Racing.

The original race car and Earnhardt's letters are on display at the NCM.

Events

Museum staff are very busy preparing for the upcoming 28th Annual NCM Michelin Bash happening on April 24-26, 2025. I am hoping that GM will send their new Corvette Team members to introduce them to the sea of Corvette enthusiasts expected to attend. Maybe they will shed some light on some of the recent rumors such as the sightings of what might be the new Zora model, numerous photos showing C8 prototypes without the wall of air conditioning buttons, and is the assembly plant being shut down for "upgrades" that might include a new Grand Sport model.

New CEO Appointed



David Hill is now the new NCM President and Chief Executive Officer. Hill is a lifelong Corvette enthusiast with extensive leadership experience. While the last couple of CEOs have come with extensive museum, philanthropic, and non-profit experience, Hill comes with a more private-sector corporate background.

The really good news is that Hill is already a Corvette enthusiast. He has restored a 71 Stingray and a 67 Coupe. The Museum has been undergoing several personnel changes over the last few years and now many of the management team are new. Hopefully this appointment will bring some stabilization to the organization.

New NCM Board Member



Ken Lingenfelter will be sharing a lifetime of knowledge as a new at-large member of the National Corvette Museum's Board of Directors. Having purchased his first Corvette 50 years ago, Ken owns Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, a company that offers engine building, engine and chassis tuning components and installations. He also does product development for manufacturers and equipment suppliers.

Ken has been actively involved with the NCM over the years as a member, donor, and exhibitor, with several of the significant Corvettes from his collection having been displayed there, including most recently his 1954 Corvette EX-87 Duntov Mule.

Raffles

Below are all the currently active raffles. For additional information and rules regarding National Corvette Museum raffles including how to order tickets and to view the number of tickets remaining available in real time, go to <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org>. The cars will be raffled off on time regardless if all the tickets are sold. I wish you the best of luck and hope to see photos of you picking up your prize at the Museum.



2025 Sea Wolf Gray Corvette Convertible 4/17/2025

Price: **\$200.00** Tickets: 1500



2025 Red Mist Corvette Z06 Convertible 4/25/2025

Price: **\$300.00** Tickets: 1500



2025 Arctic White Corvette Coupe 4/26/2025

Price: **\$20.00** Unlimited Raffle



2025 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 5/22/2025

Price: **\$150.00** Tickets: 1500

Assembly Plant Update



Corvette Scores First Place in Kelly Blue Book Best Resale Value in Sports Car Category

The strong resale value comes as no surprise to Corvette enthusiasts as they've watched the eighth-generation models dominate the marketplace since being introduced in the 2020 model year. Not surprisingly, the Corvette has been honored by KBB for its resale value in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and now 2025; interestingly, the last time it did not earn that honor was for the last year of the front-engine C7 in 2019.

Corvette was also chosen for this year's overall Top 10 Cars list. KBB reports that the Corvette retains its value better than 95 percent of all available 2025 model-year vehicles after five years of ownership, according to KBB. Their analysis shows the 2025

Corvette will likely retain 61 percent of its original sticker price in five years – good for second place in the rankings behind only the 64.1 percent of the 2025 Toyota Tacoma.

KBB bases the award on five years of ownership and 75,000 miles of driving, determining likely resale value based on multiple factors and data from millions of previous vehicles and transaction, including quality and build, level of likely interest from buyers in the future, past performance of similar models, and general market trends. [Corvette Wins 2025 Best Resale Value Award from KBB - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

Eight Corvettes Stolen from the Assembly Plant

On the morning of March 22, 2025, it was discovered that eight new Corvettes had been stolen from the Assembly Plant. Local authorities were alerted to the presence of several new Corvettes parked at different locations in the Bowling Green area close to the Plant.

During the investigation, a contract car-transport driver called in about a suspicious person with three new Corvettes asking to be taken to the Detroit area. The cars had the window stickers but had been damaged. The person was persistently demanding the driver hurry the loading process.

The police showed up and after a short foot chase, arrested Deantae Walker but another suspect was able to get away. The cars were valued at \$1.2 million and all were recovered.

It was first reported that one of the Corvettes was a ZR1 but that was an error. The ZR1 that was included in some photos on Facebook was actually driven to the scene by a plant representative. I sure wish I had a ZR1 for a company car. To learn more of the investigation's details, go to: [No ZR1s Were Stolen from the Corvette Assembly Plant Says Chevrolet - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

Corvette Tidbits

Most Expensive Corvette Sold at Auction



If you recall a few months ago I reported on an upcoming auction of the 1957 Corvette SS, the first purpose-built Corvette racer built by Corvette's Chief Engineer, Zora Arkus-Duntov to compete at the 24 Hours of LeMans. I am happy to report that the sale began with an opening bid of \$3 million and after just a few minutes, it gaveled at \$7 million. (plus the commission of \$705,000) To watch the short video, go to: <https://www.corvetteblogger.com/2025/02/28/video-sold-1957-corvette-ss-sells-for-7-7-million-at-rm-sothebys-miami-sale/>

Is Now the Time to Buy a C8?

Chevy's inventory system says there are more than 5,500 Stingrays sitting around on dealer lots. Some are heavily discounted provided you qualify for the various incentives. If you do, it appears you can get them for pretty close to 2020 prices. At least one of the promotional rates requires a Costco membership to get \$3000 off. Just be flexible on your color choices.

Does Your C7 Automatic Shudder?

If so, you might be included in some class-action litigation regarding Corvette and other GM products' automatic transmission ailments.

GM asked the court to dismiss the suits regarding problems with 8L90 and 8L45 automatic transmissions. The plaintiffs allege that the transmissions have two defects – automatic transmission fluid that lacks “robustness to moisture” that leads to “shudder” problems and “an insufficient valve body architecture” that can purge trapped air, leading to “harsh shifts.”

The lawsuit claims that GM’s own documents prove it considered retrofit packages to fix the transmission issue, but rejected them because of the cost – \$1,550 for valve body replacement and \$4,450 for a new transmission in each vehicle.

While no injuries or deaths have been connected to the problem that causes the transmissions to “slip, buck, kick, jerk, and harshly engage,” the lawsuit does include reports of “numerous dangerous incidents where drivers lost control of class vehicles and struck or nearly collided with other cars, objects, or pedestrians, or had harrowing near-miss incidents with oncoming or overtaking traffic due to abrupt, unpredictable, and uncontrollable acceleration or deceleration caused by the transmissions’ failure to engage or maintain appropriate drive gear settings.”

The Judge ruled there are adequate facts to suggest the vehicles were “not fit for the ordinary purpose of providing reasonably safe transportation” because of the specific transmissions and turned down the dismissal of the Ulrich lawsuit. For more info: [Class Action Lawsuit Against GM for Shuddering 8-Speed Auto Transmission Survives Motion to Dismiss - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

Just When You Thought You Had Seen Everything....



How about a C5 Corvette fitted with saw blades instead of wheels and tires for driving on frozen lakes? Youtuber Westen Champlin and his friends used specially made sawblades that are 1/2-inch thick and bolted them down to the wheel lugs on a lifted C5. In

his video, you will see that he first tries his luck using oversized tires but soon switches to the saw blades to navigate the Minnesota ice. Not something I would try but you can check it out at: https://youtu.be/V_UBOgLOJ9c

How About Some Trivia?

C8 Corvette Engineers Were Rewarded for Figuring Out Ways to Reduce Weight

As vehicles continue to evolve to meet stricter crash safety regulations and offer even more technology, they inevitably gain weight. While this added heft improves passenger protection and onboard amenities, it can be a challenge for performance-focused models like the C8 Corvette, where every pound is felt in the acceleration, braking, and cornering. With that in mind, it comes as no surprise that General Motors offered a direct incentive for engineers working on the C8 Corvette's development to keep the weight in check, with financial rewards going to those who successfully cut out the pounds.

Throughout the C8 Corvette's development, engineers who devised a way to shave weight while staying within the project's cost parameters were eligible for a bonus once the part in question successfully passed testing.

According to GM, "At Chevy, we're always looking for ways to encourage our team to find solutions that make our vehicles better and more capable of meeting the needs of our customers. For example, when we target mass reduction on Corvette, the highest priorities are in areas that improve balance and reduce unsprung mass,"

[C8 Corvette Engineers Rewarded For Cutting Vehicle Weight](#)

In Closing

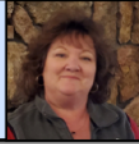
To learn more about the Museum, it's mission and purpose, upcoming events, exhibits, membership, and to plan your next visit, please contact me directly or visit the NCM website at www.corvettemuseum.org. I look forward to chatting with you at our next meeting.



Don Allen, National Corvette Museum Ambassador SLO Vettes

Sunshine Report

Jeanne Allen



April Sunshine Report

By

Jeanne Allen



Bruce Lomath	4/1
Jim Pyle	4/5
Carolyn Smith	4/9
Tim Khong	4/13
Richard Smith	4/23
Steve Hansen	4/24
Dave Naumann	4/28



Doug and Jackie Lyon	4/8
Joel and Shelly Gust	4/10



I know, I said I was going to drop the “Tales of Corvette Racing” column, and I haven’t changed my mind, but I wanted everyone who might be interested in racing to see the corvetteblogger.com report on the second round of the IMSA WeatherTech Sportscar Championship’s 2025 series. It’s important because it brings home the brutal facts of racing, to wit, that the best car doesn’t necessarily win the race. More likely, the luckiest car will take the checkered flag because endurance racing is wildly stressful on both men and equipment, and mistakes are made, as often as not by someone else in a different car, and your day goes from sunshine to rain in the blink of an eye. Once again, I recommend you sign up for corvetteblogger.com as a great way to keep up with what’s happening in the Corvette World and for excellent reporting such as this.

Russ Surber, Your Racing Correspondent

Corvette Racing at Sebring: From Hopes to Heartbreak

Mar 16, 2025

Late-race dramas bite Corvette contingent in 12 Hours



Corvette Racing’s quartet of [Corvette Z06 GT3.R](http://corvetteblogger.com) teams suffered cruel ends to the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring on Saturday with misfortune ruining chances for GTD PRO and GTD victories in America’s oldest sports car race.

Corvette Racing by Pratt Miller Motorsports’ No. 3 Corvette was the highest-finishing Z06 GT3.R with a seventh-place GTD PRO finish for Antonio Garcia, Alexander Sims and

Daniel Juncadella. The result marked an unfortunate turn of fortunes for the group of four Corvettes – all of which led their respective classes on multiple occasions.

The No. 4 Z06 GT3.R of Tommy Milner, Nicky Catsburg and Nico Varrone – also in GTD PRO – ran a clean race for the first three-quarters and ran second when it had to stop for a repair to the IMSA-mandated scrutineering logger. It cost the Corvette three laps and dropped Varrone to 10th in class. Catsburg made up a spot near the end to move himself, Varrone and Milner to ninth at the end.

DXDT Racing appeared set to challenge for its first podium in IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship competition. However a late-race mechanical issue knocked the No. 36 Corvette of Charlie Eastwood, Alec Udell and Salih Yoluc – who drove a triple-stint to start – from the top-four in GTD down to eighth at the finish.

AWA's hopes of a second straight GTD victory took a huge hit with damage to the right-front of the No. 13 Corvette on a restart with a little less than three hours remaining. Orey Fidani drove three of the first four stints, and Lars Kern and Matt Bell steadily worked their way forward and into the class lead on multiple occasions.

Subsequent stops for repairs dropped Bell from seventh to 12th but the Corvette remained on the lead lap up until being hit late by the leading LMP2 entry. It relegated AWA to 10th in GTD.



Perhaps the Corvette in the best position late in the race was the No. 3 of Alexander Sims, Antonio Garcia and Daniel Juncadella. After a strong run through the day and some clever strategy, Sims worked his way up from sixth to fourth inside the final 90 minutes and was on a fuel strategy that likely would have had him challenging for the victory.

However, the Sebring circuit bit the Corvette as Sims had to pit for a rear with a little more than an hour with a broken right-rear suspension component. It knocked him from third in class and in the podium fight to seventh and two laps down.

Corvette Racing's next event in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship is the Long Beach Grand Prix from the Long Beach (Calif.) street circuit on April 11-12.

**The Department of Nobody Could
Make This Up.**

“A day after astronomers with the Minor Planet Center registered 2018 CN41 as a new asteroid, they deleted it when they realized that it was in fact the Tesla roadster Elon Musk had launched into orbit seven years earlier..

The center said on its website that 2018 CN41’s registry was deleted after "it was pointed out the orbit matches an artificial object, 2018-017A, Falcon Heavy Upper stage with the Tesla Roadster. The designation 2018 CN41 is being deleted and will be listed as omitted."

Seven years after the SpaceX CEO launched a Tesla Roadster into orbit, astronomers from the Minor Planet Center at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Massachusetts confused it with an asteroid earlier this month. SpaceX launched the Tesla Roadster on the maiden flight of SpaceX's huge Falcon Heavy rocket in February 2018.

The roadster was expected to go into elliptical orbit around the sun, going a little beyond Mars and back toward Earth, but it apparently exceeded the orbit of Mars and kept going to the asteroid belt, according to Musk at the time.

When the roadster was mistaken for an asteroid earlier this month, it was less than 150,000 miles from Earth, which is closer than the moon’s orbit, according to Astronomy Magazine, meaning that astronomers would want to monitor how close it gets to Earth.



The Final Word

Russ Surber



Have you ever had one of those moments when you read something and find yourself wondering, “How in the hell did we get to this point?” I had one earlier in the month when I saw a press report that anti-Musk “activists” (that’s in quotes because today it is so often used as a euphemism for hooligans and anarchists) were shooting through the windows of Tesla dealerships and keying or attacking privately owned Teslas parked in public places. Later this form of “Free Speech” expanded to include Molotov cocktails tossed into Teslas on dealers’ lots. As you know, I’m not a fan of EV’s regardless of their make or origin, but this is simply a degree of spoiled petulance that is intolerable and cannot be condoned.

We live in a country where free speech is under attack from every side of the political spectrum on the grounds that whatever it is being said shouldn’t be said in public, anywhere. Remember your mother telling you that sticks and stones can break your bones but words can never harm you. Well, shooting through the windows of a business or private home isn’t free speech, whatever these morons may say to the contrary. If there was any lesson to learn from our collective Covid experience it was that denying others the right to express their views, regardless of how contrary they might be to what others might believe, is ultimately self-defeating, even dangerous. Likewise, violence in the name of political expression is never acceptable and should be rejected by all of us.

So, whatever you may or may not think of Mr. Musk, I think we can all agree that shooting at and fire-bombing Tesla dealerships and attacking Teslas parked on the street has no place in America. There is a saying amongst submariners when they see something that is going or has gone terribly wrong, it or he “has lost the bubble”. The bubble in this case is the bubble that steersmen on submarines watch to ensure that their vessel is properly trimmed. Somehow, our society seems to have lost the bubble and that is far more worrisome than the size of the national debt or the war in Ukraine. Mostly, for me, it’s sad because we have so much more in common than we have differences that the divisions we’ve divided ourselves into are inimical to our well-being. And thus ends this session of Philosophy 101.

It was nice to see a Corvette serve as the official pace car for the NASCAR race in Phoenix earlier in the month. With all of the talk about Cadillac carrying the GM banner in international racing, it was comforting to see that whatever GM’s C-Suite might think, the Corvette remains America’s favorite sports car. With rumors about that Chevy is going to resurrect its SS branding on select Chevrolet sedans (sedans that were dropped over the past few years as the costs of GM’s electrification program began to send it towards bankruptcy). The SS badge would indicate a high performance engine under the hood matched with, dare we hope, a solid six or seven speed manual transmission. We can all hope that GM recovers its sanity. Its return to the real world might even result in a new Camaro in a year or two.

A word about this year’s Mystery Tour. The Dallons and Surbers have tentatively selected a destination and will be, in the months ahead, making reconnaissance missions to see if we have a sufficient number of Corvette roads to get us to where we wish to go, along with accommodations suitable to our needs. Of course, these tentative destinations will remain our little secret until that fateful Friday luncheon September 26, when we ask our Mystery Tour Adventurers to guess where we’re bound. So keep September 26 to 28 open on your calendars lest you miss out on a great weekend.

Finally, something I need to say. I've edited and published *Keepin' Track* for going on six years and have decided it's time to retire. I am of the opinion that that a newsletter is important to any organization that relies on its membership to carry much of the burden of its mission. In our case that would be to participate in Club events whenever possible, to make yourself available for election to the Club's Board of Directors, and to fill the appointed positions that serve the Club. Editor of the newsletter is one of the latter, and I would hope someone might be willing to step into my very small shoes for the coming year. It is not a difficult job once you establish a rhythm of work, and you do get a real sense of accomplishment when you push send and it goes out to the membership. I would love to help someone in the coming months to give them the tools necessary to do the job with as little effort as possible. So, if you could find it in your heart to step forward and let me know you might be interested, I would deeply appreciate your doing so. Call me, email me, grab me at a Club meeting or event and we can talk about what the job entails. The pay's bad but the benefits are terrific.

Have a lovely April and, remember, though it may come in as a Lion it will leave as Lamb and that an enchanting Spring lies before us all. And, as always, remember the Wave.

Russ Surber, Editor
Keepin' Track



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THE VINTAGE COWBOY RUN

Saturday, April 19, 2025- A drive through North County to Pozo's Very Own Winery



The Vintage Cowboy Run to Pozo has been a popular part of the SLO Vettes Calendar for a number of years. It's a chance to put on your boots and cowboy or cowgirl hat and head out to cattle country. By tradition, every car brings a heavy appetizer to share with others, while the Vintage Cowboy let's us test their excellent wines without a tasting fee. If this is your first visit to the Vintage Cowboy or if your an old hand, please remember that the Winery sets aside a place for us to gather and provides a free tasting for the Club. If you are so disposed, it would be nice if you purchased a bottle or two of their wine, or joined some of your SLO Vettes friends and signed up for the Vintage Cowboy wine club, We can promise you that the Pickup Parties at the Vintage Cowboy are wonderful.

What: The Vintage Cowboy Run

When: Saturday, April 19, 2025, 12:10 PM at the Park & Ride, depart for Pozo at 12:30 PM

Where: The Santa Margarita Park & Ride

What to Do: Email or Text Russ or Denise Surber at rdsurber@charter.net or 805-610-0931 whether you plan to attend or not by Wednesday, April 16.












Directions to Santa Margarita Park & Ride

From the South take 101 North, from the North, take 101 South, in both cases Exit 211 leads you to the Santa Margarita off ramp. The Park & Ride will be on your right.

SLO VETTES

The Corvette Club of San Luis Obispo County

2025 Events

<div>C1</div> <div>1953 To 1962</div> <div></div>	<div>January</div> <div>19th - Events Planning Meeting at the Dallons' Casa</div> <div></div>	
	<div>February</div> <div>8th - Parkfield Café Run</div> <div></div>	
	<div>March</div> <div>7th and 8th - President Reagan Museum and Nethercutt Collection over-</div> <div></div>	
<div>C2</div> <div>1963 To 1967</div> <div></div>	<div>April</div> <div>Date: 19th- Vintage Cowboy Run</div>	
	<div>May</div> <div>2nd and 3rd - Morro Bay Car Show 10th - SLO Vettes Run and BBQ at the Weeds</div>	
	<div>June</div> <div>20th and 21st - Multi club Ragged Point Run and Winery tour</div>	
<div>C3</div> <div>1968 To 1982</div> <div></div>	<div>C4</div> <div>1984 To 1996</div> <div></div>	<div>July</div> <div>4th - Party at the Dallons' Casa. 24th - Solvang PCPA Theater overnight</div>
		<div>August</div> <div>15th - Hot El Camino Night cruise and BBQ in Atascadero</div>
		<div>September</div> <div>26th-28th - The infamous Mystery Tour</div>
<div>C5</div> <div>1997 To 2004</div> <div></div>	<div>C6</div> <div>2005 To 2013</div> <div></div>	<div>October</div> <div>11th - Paso Pioneer Parade Date: TBD - Camp Roberts Run</div>
		<div>November</div> <div>Date: TBD - Annual Toy Run</div>
		<div>December</div> <div>4th - Christmas Party @ Embassy Suites</div>
<div>C7</div> <div>2014 To 2019</div> <div></div>	<div>C8</div> <div>2020 To —</div> <div></div>	