



Keepin' Track - SLO Vettes

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

Published on the first ay of each month, except January

Cover Page

Monthly Newsletter

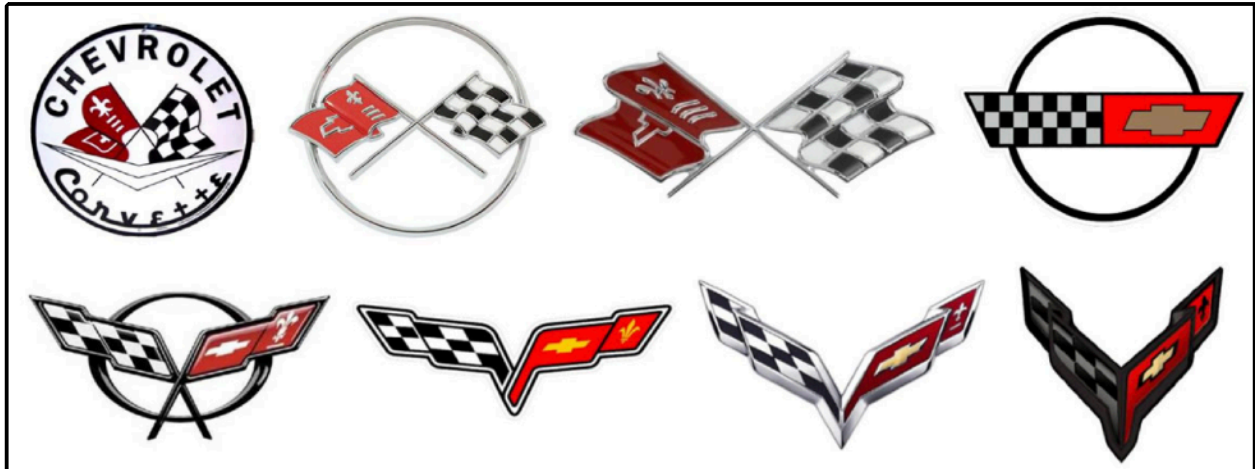
May 2025



A Perfect Spring Day at the Vintage Cowboy for SLO Vettes

The day before Easter came with blue skies, moderate temperatures, and a beautiful drive through North County to the Vintage Cowboy Winery, where 19 Corvettes, one SUV, and a Tesla spent a delightful afternoon sharing an array of scrumptious appetizers and tasting some of the best red and white wines the region produces. As always, the Vintage Cowboy Crew made us feel as if we were part of the family, and at the end of the day everyone agreed it it was a lovely afternoon.

Next SLO Vettes Meeting: Friday, May 9
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	
<hr/>	
NCM AMBASSADOR - DON ALLEN	
SUNSHINE/HISTORIAN - JEANNE ALLEN	
MERCHANDIZE - JAN DALLONS	
WEBMASTER - JON DALLONS	
NEWSLETTER - RUSS SURBER	

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President

Craig Bricker



Thank you, Russ, for scheduling the April 19th Vintage Cowboy event on such a beautiful “Chamber of Commerce” day with blue skies and a temperature of 73 degrees. Great turnout! Great food! And most importantly great people!

After returning from a two-week vacation in early April, it was just a few days later that I ventured off with my older son and made the drive from Phoenix back to his home in Austin, Texas. He had bought a used car from a friend of the family in Phoenix, AZ and I drove with him back to Austin. I’m sure many of you have made this same drive but this was my third time in the last 2 1/2 years. I no longer need Google Maps or Map Quest to make this drive.

As a reminder, with summer right around the corner and possibly putting more miles on our Corvettes, it’s time to check those fluids and tires so we can experience a smooth and carefree ride. It was just a year ago that I replaced my two back tires because they were the original tires on my 2016 C-7. The decision to get new tires was made after reading Don Allen’s “Tech Talk” article about tires and how long you should keep them even with low miles. So, don’t assume your tires are fine even with low miles and good tire tread. Just to be safe, check the date.

Stay safe while driving. Hope to see everyone soon!

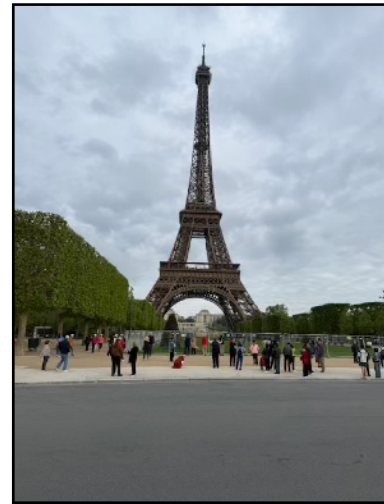
Craig Bricker
President
805-471-2945

Vice-President

Doug Williamson



Greeting from Paris or as they say in France “Bonjour”. Denise and I have been traveling in France for the last 2 weeks, starting in Marcelle, southern France and traveling to our final destination Paris. Even though I have seen several roads that would be inviting to a Corvette we have seen no Corvettes or any other sports cars outside a few Porsche SUV’s. I totally understand why you would not want to drive a Corvette in any of the French cities though. That would be insane!



It was scary enough just riding in a tour bus, like's. No lanes just a lot of small cars, scooters, and bikes. Paris is a beautiful city and the food has been amazing but after a couple weeks I'm looking forward to coming home. So for now I'll just say Au revoir from Paris.

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

Secretary
Denise Surber



SLO Vettes April 2025 Meeting

Date: April 11, 2025 Location: Chevy SLO

Call to Order: 6:35 pm

Club Attendees: 14

Board Members: Present -- Secretary Denise Surber, Treasurer Jan Dallons, Events Bob Furster

Absent – President Craig Bricker, Vice President Doug Williamson

Committee Chairs: All present, except Newsletter Russ Surber

Website Chair & Past President Jon Dallons for President Craig Bricker

Jon called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance, and noted that President Craig Bricker and Vice President Doug Williamson were both out of town. He

asked everyone to share what special plans they may have for the upcoming Easter holiday weekend.

Events Chair Bob Furster for Vice President/Membership Chair, Doug Williamson

The Club currently has 46 paid-up memberships, and 87 individual members. Renewals are still arriving.

Secretary, Denise Surber

No additions or changes were noted for the Minutes of the meeting on March 14 as printed in the April newsletter. Scott Randle moved to approve the Minutes as written, and Dave Naumann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Treasurer, Jan Dallons

Jan presented the Treasurer's monthly Profit and Loss Statement for the period March 14 through April 11 and the 2025 Year-to-Date Statement. Kathy Naumann made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Lori Furster seconded it, and the Motion carried unanimously.

Events Chair, Bob Furster

Bob reviewed upcoming events:

April 19 Vintage Cowboy Winery Run (Organizer Russ Surber)

May 2-3 Morro Bay Car Show & associated activities (Organizer Harold Davis). Harold needs to know soon who wants to participate in the Car Show.

May 10 BBQ at the Weed's Home

June 20-21 Multi-Club Run to Ragged Point – SLO Vettes will be joined by the Bakersfield and Monterey Clubs

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

July 24 PCPA Play at Solvang Festival Theater & overnight. Tickets for the play about Sherlock Holmes (*Holmes & Watson*) are \$33/person, payable to Bob (cash, check, or Venmo). We will stay at the same hotel as last year. We have not reserved a block of rooms, but the hotel is giving members of our group a discount. A flyer will be out soon with details. Bob recommends members reserve a hotel room as soon as possible once the flyer is available.

Sept 26-28 Mystery Tour (Organized by the Dallons and Surbers). Jan will begin taking deposits at the next meeting.

Oct 11 Pioneer Day Parade, Paso Robles (Organizer Harold Davis).

Nov 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)

Sunshine Chair, Jeanne Allen

Jeanne shared the April birthdays and anniversaries as printed in the April newsletter. One anniversary, which had been inadvertently omitted on the member's application

form, was added to the list. Jeanne is eager to receive an updated membership roster which includes new and renewed members for 2025.

National Corvette Museum (NCM) Ambassador, Don Allen

Before talking about NCM news, Don mentioned a special event on May 31 at Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway featuring a race between Kevin and son Keelan. Corvettes of Bakersfield has arranged a special program for the event. Don will share the flyer with SLO Vettes (See page 33). For those who sign up, the COB program will include a pre-event lunch, a caravan to the Raceway, a Corvette cruise-in and show, a Corvettes parade lap on the track, dedicated parking, free admission to the race, special seating for the race, and pit access. Meet-up locations are being arranged for SLO Vettes participants at a donut shop in Paso Robles and at Highway 58. SLO Vettes participants can look forward to a drive over backroads to Bakersfield. This COB event is also a fund-raiser for the charitable organization Portrait of a Warrior.

Don reported on the recent CEO changeovers, with the most recent one leaving after less than a month. He thought new Board of Directors member Ken Lingenfelter would be a good addition. There is no information yet about the new Corvette model. A question for consideration: Would it benefit Corvette to be its own brand? It now competes on the world stage, so it may need to upgrade the buyer's experience to that offered by Porche, Ferrari, and similar high-performance brands. A California State Senate bill, termed "Leno's Law," is being spearheaded by Jay Leno. It would exempt classic cars 35 years or older from the state's smog check program. Check out Don's article in the *Keepin' Track* newsletter for current raffles and other Museum happenings.

Tech Talk – Don Allen for Both Him and Art Maccarley

There will be no newsletter article this month. They are looking at one of three subjects coming up soon. Stay tuned!

Corvette Racing – Don Allen for Russ Surber

The IMSA race in Long Beach is next weekend. Pratt Miller decided to set aside it's traditional yellow paint scheme to introduce a new, "sexier" look. The upcoming Endurance Race will include a paraplegic Corvette driver using hand controls in his first race in the car specially adapted for him.

Webmaster – Jon Dallons

Jon still needs more pictures of members with their car even from people who provided one in the past. When we lost the previous SLO Vettes website and moved to the current one, we lost the old photos, so he had to start from scratch, photo-wise. Jon also wants to open a private section just for members. Currently, all website content is available to anyone visiting the site.

Newsletter – Denise Surber for Russ Surber

The deadline for the May edition of *Keepin' Track* is Friday, April 25.

Merchandise – Jan Dallons

Jan has shirts on hand, including polos, long and short-sleeved tees for men, and tees for women. She can order more. She is looking for a new jacket for women because the previous style is no longer available. She needs to order six jackets, either men's or women's, for the logo cost to be affordable.

50/50 Drawing - \$60.00 was collected. Bob & Lori Furster were the lucky winners of \$30.00.

Next Monthly Meeting

Date: May 9, 2025

Location: Chevy SLO

Meet & Greet: 6:00 p.m.

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

Submitted by Secretary Denise Surber

rdsurber@charter.net



(Editor's Note: Bob was unable to submit his report, but here is a listing of upcoming events. Flyers with details will be forthcoming.)

May 2-3 Morro Bay Car Show & associated activities (Organizer Harold Davis). Harold needs to know soon who wants to participate in the Car Show.

May 10 BBQ at the Weed's Home

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Sept 26-28 Mystery Tour (Organized by the Dallons and Surbers). Jan will begin taking deposits at the next meeting.

Oct 11 Pioneer Day Parade, Paso Robles (Organizer Harold Davis).

Nov Toy Run - Date to be determined.

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)



National Corvette Museum Update



Greetings SLO Vette members. Why am I leading off this article with a photo of a C8 Corvette interior, you ask? Current C8 owners will probably notice the “wall of buttons” (a/c controls) is missing and the info screen is twice the size of the usual C8 screen. These features that were caught by a spy photographer of a test mule in Michigan. Current C8 owners and shoppers either have little regard for or hate the wall of buttons. I am hoping GM will reveal this change for 2026 models at the NCM Bash

April 24-26, 2025. By the time this issue of the newsletter is published maybe I will have some real news to report on any changes.

Museum News

New CEO Appointed and then Resigned. Another New CEO Appointed.



David Hill was recently appointed the new NCM President and Chief Executive Officer. While initial expectations were high, Mr. Hill was carrying some baggage that went undetected during the hiring process.

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 was that Hill was already a Corvette enthusiast. He has restored a 71 Stingray and a 67 Coupe.

Now for the rest of the story from Keith Cornett at [Corvetteblogger](#).

The National Corvette Museum's new CEO David Hill just started his new position last month, but now there are questions about how customers and employees of his classic trucks' restoration parts company were handled after the company was abruptly shut down last month.

Mar-K was the name of the classic truck parts company that was based in Oklahoma City and it offered sheet metal products which were used in restoring pick up beds. A video shared on Facebook says the company was very well-regarded among Chevrolet, Ford, and Dodge enthusiasts who turned to the company for complete bed kits, tailgates, bed wood, body moldings, and more. Originally founded in the 1970s, Mar-K was taken over in 2016 by David Hill.

Keith reported, "We're not exactly sure for the reasons that Mar-K suddenly closed, but we were sent a link to a Facebook group that focuses on 1947-1955 Chevy Trucks. A member of the group posted on April 2nd that *"Apparently Mar-K is no longer in business. Anyone know why?"* The post had over 90 comments with some saying they have paid thousands in advance for parts that no longer appear to be coming."

In addition to these individual customers, larger corporate customers like after-market car parts giant, Summit Equipment, also appear to have been left hanging after the closure.

Keith summed it up pretty well in his comments:

I can't even imagine the feedback if it were Corvette owners that were getting blind-sided with a business closing while still being owed parts, and the last place we would want to see the owner of that company is at the head of our National Corvette Museum. David either needs to comment publicly about the closure of Mar-K, or the NCM Board needs to make a change immediately.

This is obviously very disappointing, and it's the third strike for those on the NCM Board who have utilized the same headhunting firm that brought us Dr. Sean Preston and Sharon Brawner, both who were fired by the NCM Board during their second year in the position. As news broke over the weekend, we had several friends who are lifetime members of the NCM saying they are done providing donations unless or until they get things straightened out in Bowling Green.

Well, it appears that the NCM took the Corvetteblogger seriously and on April 9, 2025, the NCM sent this out to its members:

"Effective immediately, David Hill has submitted his resignation as President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum, which has been accepted by the Board of Directors. We thank him for his time with the organization and wish him well in his future endeavors.



We are proud to share that Bryce Burklow has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. A dedicated 15-year veteran of the Museum, Bryce has served in key leadership roles across Events, Facilities, and most recently as Interim Chief Operating Officer. His deep understanding of our operations and passion for the Corvette community position him to lead the Museum forward with strength and purpose.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition. The high level of interest and engagement from our Members and the Corvette community has been a powerful reminder of how much this institution means to so many. Thank you for your continued support as we drive into our next chapter.”

Hopefully, Bryce will prove to be the right choice to bring some stabilization to the organization. His first order of business should be to terminate any remaining contract the NCM has with the head-hunting firm and start doing their own recruiting complete with a more comprehensive background check.

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.

[Corvette Museum's New CEO David Hill Under Fire for Business Closure That Left Customers Hanging for Backordered Parts - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

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.

Motorsports Park News

The Motorsports Park has partnered with Bowling Green Cars and Coffee to host monthly get-togethers on the last Saturday of each month. Kentucky Cars & Coffee happen monthly across the state, typically on Saturday mornings. Cars and Coffee Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green, and Cave City are some of the local groups. These Kentucky Cars and Coffee events make for exciting weekend fun for family friendly activities, free outdoor entertainment, and of course, drool-worthy cars.



The event is not just for Corvettes. Car enthusiasts of all varieties are invited. The March 2025 event marked a monumental success with over 200 attendees joining the celebration of automotive culture. From classic muscle cars and modern sports cars to rare imports and exotic beauties, the March gathering showcased a dynamic array of

vehicles, reflecting the diverse tastes and dedication of Bowling Green's car community.

Tuesday evenings just got a little more exciting in Bowling Green as Trek at the Track returns for another season. The program is made possible thanks to the generosity of community partners such as Houchens Insurance Group, Grange Insurance, Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, Howard's Cycling & Fitness, and Nat's Outdoor Sports. Starting April 1, 2025 and running through September, guests can get a little exercise while enjoying the 3.2 mile, 23-turn road course for free.

"I love taking advantage of this local gem," says Chris Stone of Smith's Grove, "I look forward to Tuesday evenings just because I know that I will get to bike on a fun and safe track with lots elevation changes and enough space for everyone."



Marketing Manager, Morgan Watson echoes Stone's excitement and adds, "We're thrilled to have so much support and interest from the Bowling Green community and to see this program grow every year. Whether you walk, jog, run, bike, or skate, this is a place where you can enjoy your favorite forms of fitness in a safe environment."

The track features a variety of elevations changes, offering a dynamic surface to exercise. There are several configurations allowing guests to customize the length of their workout. Pets are welcome at the facility if they are on a leash, and owners must clean up after their animals. Roller blades and roller skates are also welcome; however, skateboarders are asked to use the skatepark downtown instead. Helmets are required. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the track during this activity. In the paddock, a large flat, paved surface is available for anyone doing speedy work.

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 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 5/22/2025

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



2025 Build Your Own Corvette or \$85,000 6/19/2025

Price: **\$250.00** Tickets: 1500

Assembly Plant Update

Chevrolet to Launch a Build Your Own High Wing Experience for Z06 and ZR1 Buyers

Remember the “Build Your Own Engine” option that GM offered to C7 Z06 and ZR1 buyers? For an additional price, purchasers of those C7 models could travel to the Assembly Plant and actually assemble their own engine. Not without supervision of course. Buyers would work under the watchful eyes of a GM worker in the Performance Engine Build Center located in the Assembly Plant. The option has yet to be offered to C8 buyers.



Buyers of C8 Z06 and ZR1 models are soon to get a somewhat similar perk but I view it more as a guarantee rather than an exhilarating experience. Many of past Z06 and ZR1 customers have tried to order their cars with the High-Wing Option only to be told that option was on constraint and not available. Imagine buying one of these cars without being allowed to include probably the most obvious visible upgrade to the exterior. There are lots of Corvettes out there but few with the High Wing Option. As you can see in the photos above, this feature jumps out and screams performance not to mention that they are integral to the performance and stability of the cars at high speed.

GM has come up with a new plan that will guarantee buyers of the high performance ZR1 and Z06 Corvettes can get the large wing. Chevrolet is introducing a new Build Your High Wing Experience that will allow buyers to participate in making their own High Wings for their soon-to-be produced Corvettes. The process will begin soon and takes about eight hours as participants get hand-on experience working with composite materials at the Corvette Assembly Plant's new Composite Build Center which was just completed during the plant's two-week shutdown in late March.

To learn more about the process, go to: [Chevrolet to Launch a Build Your Own High Wing Experience for Z06 and ZR1 Buyers - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

What About Corvette Pricing?

The price of all Corvettes increased by \$200 in early April. No, it doesn't come from the tariff negotiations. At least not yet anyway. Remember when I reported that the truck transport company that delivered all Corvettes to dealers dissolved their contract with GM (and other makers too) and asked for more money. GM refused the demands and ultimately the trucking firm went under.

Corvettes still need to be transported and evidently the new contract has come with some sort of an increase. The \$200 increase came as an adjustment to the destination freight charge you see on the window sticker. To see what each Corvette model costs now, go to: [2025 Chevy Corvette Prices Rise Across The Board](#)

Corvette Tidbits

Florida Highway Patrol Has a New Patrol Unit

Police departments occasionally add cool cars to their fleets, but the Florida Highway Patrol just added a C8 to theirs. No tax dollars were spent as the car was seized as part of a criminal prosecution.



While not uncommon for agencies to obtain muscle cars, sports cars, and other fancy transportation pieces, the items are usually limited to recruitment, displays, and community outreach programs. Not this car. It is fully outfitted with all the police emergency equipment along with the computers and other technical gear. The car will be assigned to the Patrol Division and driven on the street by patrol personnel.

I sure wish I could have had one of these to drive during my shift. I bet every officer shows up early to try and grab the keys for their tour. Speeders beware. See the video at: [Florida Highway Patrol Acquires C8 Corvette Stingray: Video](#)

Leno's Law

Comedian Jay Leno is throwing his weight behind a California proposal that would exempt classic cars at least 35 years old from smog-check laws. The current law exempts 1975 and older cars, but State Sen. Shannon Grove's plan would apply to 1990 and older cars that aren't used for regular transportation. Thanks to the prolific car collector's support, Grove has dubbed it Leno's Law.

Anyone with a C3 or pre-1991 C4 Corvette should benefit from the law change, especially so if they are having a hard time finding smog equipment/replacement parts to ensure their cars can pass smog every other year.

<https://www.corvetteblogger.com/2025/03/16/video-lenos-law-could-change-californias-smog-test-requirements-for-classic-car-owners/>

Should Corvette Be Its Own Brand?

I happened across an article recently that opened my mind to an argument for GM to pull Corvette from Chevy and set it free as its own. With the development of the mid-engine design, GM has set its sights on the world stage and taken aim at the supercars coming from Ferrari, BMW, Mercedes, Aston Martin, and Audi just to name a few. Along with taking on the big names, GM remains committed to the fact that the car will be a part of the Bowtie brand.

You can't just compete against those pedigrees without considering the total package being offered to the customer. While I have no experience with those high-end brands, I can relate on a smaller scale. We own Toyota and Lexus cars and while we are happy with both, there is no comparison when visiting the dealership regardless whether we are there to buy or to have the cars serviced. It doesn't matter if your Lexus is old or new, Lexus offers creature comforts and personalized service that Toyota lacks. Luxurious waiting areas, upgraded snacks and coffee, free key fob batteries, free loaner cars, and pick-up and delivery services are a commonplace at Lexus. Not so at Toyota.

Say I want to buy an E-Ray (\$110,000 plus), Z06 (\$114,000 plus), or a ZR1 (\$175,000 plus). Of course, I have already did my research and compared Corvette to the competition and decided Corvette is the car for me. For that kind of money, I might expect some heightened level of experience when visiting the dealer.

There are some Corvette Z06 buyers who feel that Chevrolet dealers leave something to be desired from an ownership standpoint. Based on a report from Corvette Forum, there seems to be a consensus that owners want more out of their dealership experience. For instance, one user stated, "I recently purchased a 2025 C8 Z06 and I am learning that the ownership experience for a 'supercar' is no different than any other Chevrolet... It has had an oil leak (27 miles leaking oil onto my garage floor. technician could not locate oil leak), and has now been at the dealer for the week getting paint repaired due to an improperly fitted bumper." Another forum poster expressed similar frustrations, claiming that, "The vast majority of dealers aren't focused on Corvette buyers and the service departments don't even put in a modicum of effort to try and put your mind at ease."

Not every dealership is equipped to work on a Corvette. It takes special tools and service equipment. Corvette-certified technicians receive specialized training far above that provided to GM-certified techs. Hopefully the tech assigned to service your Corvette is properly trained.

From my personal experience, that is not always the case. A lot depends on the shop's workload. I now always ask if the tech is Corvette trained and if not, I ask if I can reschedule for a day where I can be guaranteed that he or she will be. Then I give the service writer my cell phone and ask him to call me when the car is done. I either walk to the Lexus dealer to sit in their waiting room or to the nearest Starbucks.

If Corvette were to stand alone, most all of us would be greatly inconvenienced by having to travel some distance to the dealer. Unlike today where there are multiple Chevy dealers to choose from, it might be like owning a Lexus in SLO when the closest dealers are in Monterey and Santa Barbara.

I vote for the Chevy dealers remodeling the waiting rooms, upgrading the refreshments, and brainstorming what services could be offered as perks to their customers. I for one, appreciate the pastries, Starbucks coffee machine and the soda fridge SLO Chevy makes available to us for our meetings.

<https://www.corvetteforum.com/>



GM Goes to England for a New Corvette Concept Design

Recently I reported that longtime Corvette Exterior Designer Kirk Bennion was let go into a forced retirement. Now I see that General Motors has expanded its global design studio footprint with the official opening of a new advanced design studio in Royal Leamington Spa, about 20 miles from Birmingham. In connection with the opening, GM revealed an advanced design study Chevrolet Corvette concept car developed by the UK team as part of a global design project involving multiple studios that will see additional Corvette concepts revealed throughout 2025.

No internal combustion engine here. This design is all-electric.



Its sleek shape to its aero-intensive body has giant 22-inch front and 23-inch rear wheels. It even integrates a Formula 1-style halo roof structure with a spine that bisects the windshield, sort of the opposite of the '63 Split Window C3.

GM says the exterior design showcases a distinct division between the upper and lower

halves of the vehicle, with the upper half focusing on Corvette's classic design elements. The lower half, in contrast, focuses on integration of the EV battery. Trick aerodynamic features increase EV range and efficiency in some settings and increase downforce in others, including a sculpted underbody with fan assistance to suck the car to the road. Special active ducting redirects air over and through the vehicle.



Don't worry, it is not a C9. I do like the lines but I ask why go outside the U.S for design ideas for America's sports car? I also wonder why GM went electric-only when other high-end sports car designs/prototypes are moving back to gas power or hybrid gas/electric.

For more info and photos, go to: [GM opens new UK advanced design studio, showcases Corvette-inspired concept car](#)

In Closing

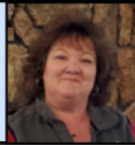
To learn more about the Museum, it's mission and purpose, upcoming events, exhibits, membership, and to plan your next visit, please contact me directly or visit the NCM website at www.corvettemuseum.org. I look forward to chatting with you at our next meeting.

Don Allen, National Corvette Museum Ambassador SLO Vettes



Sunshine Report

Jeanne Allen



May Sunshine Report
By
Jeanne Allen



Dale Comer	5/14
Harold Davis	5/14
Tracy Weed	5/22
James Mariott	5/23



No May Anniversaries



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

Man Is Shocked When He Discovers Why His Car Is Making Weird Noises

Spring is a busy time for squirrels. They are building nests to prepare for having babies and searching out food to stash away for when they need it and keep it away from competitors.

One Michigan man recently discovered the squirrels in his neighborhood had been very busy using his car as a food bank.

Kellen Moore's engine had been making weird noises when he switched on the air conditioning so he went to take a look. He opened the hood of his car and discovered a squirrel (or squirrels) stashed more than 50 pounds of pine cones throughout his car engine!

Gabe Awrey snapped a picture of the squirrel's handiwork when Moore invited him to take a look while they were at work. He shared the photo on Facebook along with the warning to car owners, "Remember to check your engine bays this time of year! The squirrels are sneaky. This was my friend's car today!"



"Literally every free space in that engine bay was FILLED," Awrey wrote on [Facebook](#). "The heat from the engine opened all of these bad boys up too, making them lodged in some places."

They spent the next 45 minutes removing the sticky pine cones from the car's engine bay.

Moore joked afterwards that he would be "spending the night in my car, parked in the driveway tonight...I'm going to strangle that squirrel with my bare hands."

But in all seriousness, Awrey and Moore's advice is to check under your hood more frequently this time of year if you are in an area with lots of squirrels.

Awrey's post prompted others to share their squirrel misadventures.

Colleen Crannell commented on Facebook that squirrels favored her CRV and were continually building “nests under the hood, they were chewing up my wiring harness and other parts made w/eco friendly ‘soy based parts’. Got rid of the CRV after the 3rd trip to shop, got a new Hyundai and 2 weeks after owning that this winter I came out one day to find it wouldn’t start. Opened the hood and there was a HUGE nest and major chewing done all in one day!!”



David Rea had a similar experience to Moore and shared “Been there, done that.” “Been there, done that...this is ONE HALF of the pine cones...Ford dealer took out other half and put mothballs in engine compartment.”

There are ways to discourage squirrels from using a vehicle as a secret stash hideaway. Rea mentioned using mothballs. But other ways including humane harassment, especially if you have a mother nesting. The [Toronto Wildlife Center](#) recommends the following:

- Place a bright light under the hood of the car. Tune a radio to a talk station and place it under the hood of the car (not music, human voices).
- Soak rags in apple cider vinegar or ammonia and put them in a plastic bag. Poke holes in the bag and hang it under the hood of your car. Dirty kitty litter will also be effective.
- Do this for at least 3 days and 3 nights. That will allow the mother squirrel to move her babies and leave the nest.
- Trapping and relocating squirrels doesn’t really work because they are territorial and usually results in the squirrels dying.

As for Moore’s car? Thankfully, after Moore and Awrey removed all the cones, the car still runs just fine.



Tech Talk
Art MacCarley
& *Don Allen*



Art MacCarley and Don Allen

Season 3 Episode 2: Keeping Your Cool





This article is in response to a discussion sparked by John Everett, one of our members who owns a 2005 C6 Corvette.

John wrote, "Russ, thought I might pass along a bit of info on my C6 radiator that I think folks should know about! I didn't! Seems the radiator is at an angle and behind a narrow passage that channels fresh air from under the car into the radiator opening. We'll, that fresh air also contains all sorts of debris, and that debris gets ingested into the fins. It's in a

pretty difficult place to access and clean out. I haven't done this yet, but my plan is to get the car up on a lift and use an air or water stream to flush out the debris. If you want to put this out to members, feel free, and any advice on this is welcomed."



John is correct about trash getting into that confined area and besides being difficult to clean, it is also difficult to see from just a glance into the engine bay. This item of maintenance is often overlooked because unless your Corvette is overheating or you learn about this from someone, most never think to inspect the area. The photo in the header of this article is an example of what you might find in your C4-C7 Corvette.

Art responded straightaway.

"I replaced my C6 radiator when I was adding the supercharger. I blew it out from the back with compressed air. The only thing I am really sure about is: **do not ever use a pressure washer on the radiator fins.** It will bend, flatten and break the fragile fins."

“To prevent leaves and dust clogging things up, you could add a screen in front of the radiator, although it will slightly reduce air flow. For a base C6, which does not have the NACA duct in the nose, I think that the engine compartment can benefit from an additional air exit point. That's why I added a hood duct on mine. But I can't really quantify if it is helping or not.”

I totally agree with Art's response. **Absolutely no pressure washer or steam cleaner.** Compressed air or a garden hose with a spray nozzle works the best. I would only add to not limit your inspection to the radiator fins.

Here is a clip from Hib Halverson that he authored for the 2024 National Corvette Southwest Caravan E-news on how Caravan participants might prep for the trek. Hib is a frequent contributor to Corvette Magazine.

“On C4, C5 and C6, there is a space between the A/C condenser and the radiator. Since those cars are mainly "bottom breathers," certain road debris can get sucked up and trapped between the two. I've pulled off the top of the cooling stack found paper bags, plastic wrap and foliage stuck between the two. That reduces the efficiency of the radiator and condenser—not what you want if it's 115° outside. If you're not sure about that volume of space, have a service shop pull off the top of the cooling stack, look inside and remove debris as necessary.”



Whether, you take on this project or not, I strongly suggest you add some Water Wetter to your surge/radiator tank. This was also recommended to folks traveling to the Museum during the Caravan and it works! Half a bottle added to our surge tanks dropped the operating temps during the long hot desert pull into Vegas by as much as 10 degrees. You can find it on Amazon or at most auto parts stores.

Don't get carried away. Follow the instruction on the bottle. While I don't believe in a "mechanic in a bottle", this stuff really works.

John completed his task and gave this summary.

Russ, a follow up on the email regarding the radiator cleaning on my C6 Corvette.

I ordered the 2-piece cleaning wand set and am very pleased with it. You get 2 "wands" which are sprayers on about a 15" tube that is angled at the end and has a spray tip. One is a water sprayer and one is an air sprayer. I think they are exactly the same except for an air chuck adapter screwed into the garden hose female fitting. Anyway, they work well and I really don't know how you could do a good job at this cleaning without it. There are many companies selling them online. I'd be happy to send pictures of mine if anyone is interested. I think the set was about \$40. I would loan mine out to a well-qualified person with a sizeable deposit! The hardest part of the whole operation and the most time consuming was the disassembly and re-assembly of the air cleaner/radiator cover! You have to take it all apart to access the radiator and AC condenser so you can blow them out. Oh, almost forgot, there is at least one YouTube video on this subject and I strongly suggest watching it before you attempt this project. There are also videos on changing coolant and improving cooling if you think you're getting too hot. There was quite a bit of debris of all kinds in the radiator, but not as much as I had thought after looking up from underneath. It did need a cleaning, though. I would think that the performance models would be even more critical than my LS-2 because this debris does affect the cooling ability to some degree. This job is not terribly difficult and I would think could be done by most "Corvette guys". No special tools except the cleaning wands, and it doesn't need to be on a lift. Can be done on the ground. Couple of hours, probably.

Good Luck, and feel free to forward this to anyone or follow up with something in Tech Talk.

With a little looking on the internet, I found these which should be similar to the ones that John used. I expect several other vendors have something similar but I found this

set for \$45.99 at: [Lisle 88500 Radiator Genie Air/Water Pressure Cleaning Wand Combo](#)



You could always make your own as Art did years ago when he needed to clean his tractor's radiator which was about

every time he used it. Art professes, "Clean radiator, clean mind." At least that's how he remembered it.



Well, maybe not the fanciest looking but Art's home-built should work just fine and will leave you some bucks to spend on something else for your Corvette.

Many thanks to John Everett for his contribution from the Tech Talk guys. If anyone has a question or a topic suggestion for our articles, please let us know. And always keep checking your Corvette, especially the places that are hard to see at first glance.



The Final Word

Russ Surber



Let me start out with these lyrics from Roger's and Hammerstein's Broadway musical, *Camelot*.

It's May! It's May!
The lusty month of May!
That lovely month when ev'ryone goes
Blissfully astray.
Tra la! It's here!
That shocking time of year
When tons of wicked little thoughts
Merrily appear!

Well, I'm not sure that's still true, but welcome to May, when the sun shines more often than not, when the days grow warmer and longer, and life just seems a little better. It's time to wash and wax the Corvette and embrace spontaneity. Take your significant other out to the garage to see your new, shining Vette and then whisk her or him off to someplace new, or at least seldom visited. That's what May is all about, wicked little thoughts.

On a less happy note, while it seems that that the ultimate impact of the new 25% tariffs on all imports is as yet unknown, it struck me that Corvette might be one of the thousands of products that will be affected negatively by their imposition. 31% of the parts in a C8 Stingray are imported (mostly from Canada and Mexico) while 32% of parts for the E-Ray and Z07 are imported from the same sources. The 8-speed automatic transmission on the base C8 is made in Canada and shipped to Bowling Green. The same transmissions for the E-Ray and Z06 though using exactly the same architecture are not produced in Canada.

Using guesswork and rudimentary arithmetic all of this would mean that the base price of a C8 with the cheapest 1LT trim would rise by about \$4,000. The increase for the more typically outfitted C8 Stingray would climb accordingly. Ditto for the E-Ray and Z06. At the moment Canada seems willing to work out a compromise that would either eliminate the tariff or reduce it to, say, 10%. Mexico, on the other hand, has become the "bad boy" in this view of the world and consequently might find its exports to the U.S. tagged with that 25%-plus number the President seems so enamored of. Whatever the case, Econ 101 teaches us that tariffs ultimately present themselves as taxes on the citizens of the tariff imposing state, which in this case is us!

As an extension of the above, tariffs may also impact the at the pump price of gasoline in California. It is difficult to get current numbers from any of the State's multiple agencies that have their finger in the refined gasoline pie, but it would appear that as much as 70% of the crude processed in California refineries comes from abroad, and though I couldn't find any information on how petroleum imports are treated under the new tariff regime, let's assume that they will have a 25% tariff. As we all know from painful experience, in the gasoline business costs are passed on to the consumer, and if that model holds we should expect to see a rise in the cost of gasoline that could push it to \$6/gallon for regular, and we all know that our little darlings only drink the good stuff. So, keep smiling as you pump that precious liquid into the tank, it's worth it for a Corvette. Oh, to finish this with a bang, word is that two more of California's eleven refineries are about to close, killed off by the regulatory state and its war on internal combustion engines. If that happens, \$6/gallon may be a longed for memory.

On a brighter note, the April run to the Vintage Cowboy Winery was blessed with near perfect weather. Nineteen Corvettes motored out of the Santa Margarita Park & Ride lot just off of Hwy 101 for Pozo and the Winery. The hills I'm delighted to say were still green and as a consequence the drive was even more beautiful than usual. On behalf of Denise and myself we'd like to say "Thank You" to those of you who joined us and hope we can do it again next year.

Corvettes of Bakersfield is planning a large event for May 31. For those who sign up, the COB program will include a pre-event lunch, a caravan to the Raceway, a Corvette cruise-in and show, a Corvettes parade lap on the track, dedicated parking, free admission to the race, special seating for the race, and pit access. Meet-up locations are being arranged for SLO Vettes participants at a donut shop in Paso Robles and at Highway 58. SLO Vettes participants can look forward to a drive over backroads to Bakersfield. Please see the flyer on page 33 that provides more information and how to contact COB about participating.

Finally, the silence to my plea for someone to contact me about taking on the editing/publishing role for *Keepin' Track* has been deafening. So, let me repeat my request that one of you volunteer to work with me over the remainder of the year learning the many mysteries of getting this newsletter out on the airwaves. I would hate to see the Club's newsletter disappear, but unless someone raises their hand, disappear it will. Please, give it a serious thought and let me help you become the next William Randolph Hearst!

Have a lovely May, get your car on the road as much as you can, and remember The Wave,

Russ Surber, Editor
Keepin' Track

The Corvettes of Bakersfield proudly invites you to

CORVETTE CRUISE-IN & SHOW

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**2 GENERATIONS
ONE FINISH LINE**
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KERN Raceway • May 31, 2025

Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway
13500 Raceway Blvd (I-5 and S Enos Ln), Bakersfield, CA 93311

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OF BAKERSFIELD**

SHOW OFF YOUR CORVETTE AT THE RACEWAY

FREE CRUISE-IN SHOW & FREE RACE ADMISSION
Race admission courtesy of Keen Parts - Gates open 3:00PM/Races 6:00PM
SPECIAL CORVETTE PARADE LAP HONORING PORTRAITS OF A WARRIOR

***Special pre-event lunch at Salty's BBQ**
*\$20 per person - Lunch 12:30PM-1:30PM 6801 White Ln, Bakersfield, CA 93309

R.S.V.P. @ corvettesofbakersfield.org/contact
DEADLINE May 25, 2025






Join us at the Corvette Cruise-In on May 31st at Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway to help raise awareness in the racing community. During the event, you'll have the opportunity to carry one of the 27 Warrior Portraits in your Corvette while participating in a special parade lap. We will pause on the front straightaway to display the portraits and announce the names of each fallen hero. To participate, we are requesting a \$100 tax-deductible donation, which will directly benefit the Portrait of Warrior Kern County. Our goal is to secure a ride for all 27 Warriors, and we need your help to make that happen.

SLO VETTES

The Corvette Club of San Luis Obispo County

2025 Events

C1 1953 TO 1962 C2 1963 TO 1967 	January	19th - Events Planning Meeting at the Dallons' Casa ✓
	February	8th - Parkfield Café Run ✓
	March	7th and 8th - President Reagan Museum and Nethercutt Collection over- ✓
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">April</div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">Date: 19th- Vintage Cowboy Run ✓</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> C3 1968 TO 1982 </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: blue; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">May</div> <div style="background-color: blue; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">2nd and 3rd - Morro Bay Car Show 10th - SLO Vettes Run and BBQ at the Weeds</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> C4 1984 TO 1996 </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: purple; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">June</div> <div style="background-color: purple; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">20th and 21st - Multi club Ragged Point Run and Winery tour</div> </div>		
C5 1997 TO 2004 C6 2005 TO 2013 	July	4th - Party at the Dallons' Casa. 24th - Solvang PCPA Theater overnight
	August	15th - Hot El Camino Night cruise and BBQ in Atascadero
	September	26th-28th - The infamous Mystery Tour
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: blue; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">October</div> <div style="background-color: blue; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">11th - Paso Pioneer Parade Date: TBD - Camp Roberts Run</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> C7 2014 TO 2019 </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">November</div> <div style="background-color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">Date: TBD - Annual Toy Run</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> C8 2020 TO — </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">December</div> <div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;">4th - Christmas Party @ Embassy Suites</div> </div>		

If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP to RSVP@corvettesofbakerkksifeld.org/contact