

ESTABLISHED 1963

DECEMBER 2014





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER 6, 2014 - SATURDAY - COF CHRISTMAS PARTY BILLIE TALLEY - 559-960-4666

DECEMBER 13, 2014 - SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS DESSERT AT THE MINNICH'S INFO TO BE E-MAILED

JANUARY 13, 2015 - TUESDAY - TAHOE PLANNING MEETING 7:00PM AT DENNYS - BLACKSTONE & HERNDON

FEBRUARY 28, 2015 - SATURDAY - ICE BREAKER RUN TO MONTEREY
STEVE PROFERA - 559-681-7865

TAHOE 47 - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2015



Tahoe 47

"THE LONGEST RUNNING ANNUAL CORVETTE EVENT ON THE PLANET"

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2015

\$165.00 PER COUPLE \$100.00 SINGLES

EARLY BIRD DRAWING

ALL PAID REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED BY MAY 1, 2015 WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100.00 CASH!

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 CARS





Silver Legacy Resort Hotel & Casino 407 N. Virginia St. Reno, Nevada

(COVERED SECURE PARKING ON LEVEL 6 & 7 OF THE SELF PARKING GARAGE)

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE \$165.00 REGISTRATION FEE?

- 1. DUFFEL BAG & BLANKET
- 2. BREAKFAST FOR 2 EACH MORNING AT "FLAVORS BUFFET" (must book through group code 915corv)
- 3. THURSDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY IN "RUM BULLIONS BAR"
- 4. FRIDAY SHINE & SHOW AT LEGENDS MALL
- 5. FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY SHOW IN THE "CATCH A RISING STAR SHOWROOM"
- 6. SATURDAY SCENIC POKER RUN ENDING WITH LUNCH (lunch not included)
- 7. SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET

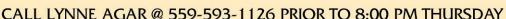
Registration: Forms available on the website: www.corvettesoffresno.com also released via e-mail - jim.agar@att.net Registration must be Received by August 15, 2015



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday:

11:00 AM - 5:00 pm REGISTRATION HOURS
TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE REGISTRATION



5:00 pm -7:00 pm - Welcome Social - Rum Bullions Island Bar

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - No Host Dinner at La Strada's Italian restaurant located in the Eldorado Hotel & Casino - just a short walk from Rum Bullions.

Friday:

8:00 am - 9:30 am - Complimentary Breakfast at Flavors Buffet

10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Participant's Choice Shine "N" Show at Legends Mall Home of Scheels "worlds largest sporting goods store"

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Slot Tournament - Silver Baron Room -\$10.00 p/p Payable at Event - 4 GUARANTEED WINNERS (all event participants invited to attend)

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Catch A Rising Star Comedy Show Special Guest Appearance by Donnie Dukes (some parts may be objectionable)

Saturday:

8:00 am - 9:30 am - Complimentary Breakfast at Flavors Buffet

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Scenic Poker Run along the shores of Lake Tahoe ending with lunch. (lunch not included)

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Black Jack Tournament - Silver Legacy main Casino floor

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Pre-dinner Social - No Host Bar

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Awards Dinner and Ceremony

PLEASE NOTE - DRESS CODE FOR AWARDS DINNER IS SMART CASUAL

HAVE A SAFE WEEK-END - PLEASE DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

Accommodations

Silver Legacy Hotel & Casino: (800) 687-8733 Use the Group Code 915CORV

Room Rates: Thursday \$76.00 Friday & Saturday \$122.00 (plus tax & resort fee)

Buffet Breakfast for 2 each Day is Included!

(must book through group code 915CORV to get included breakfast buffet)
Register now so you don't miss out on the 47th Tahoe Tour
Register by August 9, 2015 for Room Rate Guarantee

 $www.corvettes of fresno.com\ for\ Additional\ Details\ \&\ Updates$

Registration must be Received by August 15, 2015

DUE TO CONTRACTS WITH OUR VENDORS WE CANNOT ISSUE ANY REFUNDS ON CANCELATIONS AFTER AUGUST 15, 2015

Registration: Forms available on the website: www.corvettesoffresno.com



Night Before Christmas



Twas the night before Christmas, the garage was prepared For the one gift I asked for, nothing else could compare. The tools put away and a space had been cleared For the Stingray I hoped Santa'd bring me this year.

My other six Vettes had been stored for a reason All cleaned, waxed, protected, for the whole winter season. Out of the weather and put safely away Dreamin' of sunshine and warm summer days.

When out in the driveway there arose a commotion I sprang from my bed in a fit of emotion. Worried about thieves, the garage was unlocked I searched for my colt making sure it was cocked.

I turned all the inside and outside lights on To catch the intruder before he was gone. What I saw in the spotlight was a sight to behold A customized sleigh painted Riverside gold.

With sidepipes and tailfins it was quite a sensation Led by tiny Corvettes one from each generation. Duntov was driving, Harley Earl rode shotgun Shouting commands to Corvette's favorite sons.

He called out directions to seven small Vettes
That darted in front of him, faster than jets.
Driving the Vettes were engineers and designers
Who built America's sports car there were none any finer.

McLellan, Juechter, Palmer, Hill was there too Shinoda, Peters and Mitchell completed the crew. Performance and styling, both praised and extolled Each gave the Corvette a part of their soul.

They guided Zora's sleigh this Christmas eve night At incredible speeds, an astonishing sight. Engineers and designers driving one of the seven Generations that pulled Harley's sleigh through the heavens.



The quiet was shattered by the dual mode exhaust And with navigation they could hardly get lost. The large sleigh was packed with all things Corvette From new logo shirts to embroidered mat sets.

Everything possible with crossed Corvette flags Mugs, wallets, hats and even handbags. The logo was etched on mugs for the bar. There were books on the history of America's sports car

The night almost over, his sack still not depleted His biggest delivery must still be completed. Zora parked the contraption by my garage door I thought I'd pass out right there on the floor.

Harley Earl then stood up, shouted another command To his esteemed helpers just like it was planned. They got out of their Vettes then walked to the back And lifted a huge box out of Harley's large sack.

I watched as they carried it to the garage Lifted the door Zora called out to Tadge. Look at each one of the six generations Each in its time caused quite a sensation.

And now your car will join all the rest And like each of the others will become simply the best. Each generation has raised the bar Keeping the Vette the number one car.

So place the C7 in the space that's been cleared Among the six others, they're all so revered. A Stingray in white, a red leather interior The consummate Corvette, none more superior.

Now close the door and let's get it in gear. We've gifts to deliver so let's disappear." Each of the helpers ran back to their cars Started their engines and took off for the stars.

Guiding Harley and Zora in their prototype sleigh Seven generations of Vettes leading the way. I heard Harley exclaim when their task was all done If you like the C7 you'll love ZR1.

Merry Christmas and happy new year!!







CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC

Is a non-profit organization formed by those owners who are proud to drive America's only

true sports car THE CORVETTE

Our club meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Yosemite Falls Cafe 4020 North Cedar Between Dakota & Ashlan on the East side of Cedar

If you are an interested Corvette owner, we invite you to attend.

The one time initiation fee is \$30.00 and covers the cost of your Corvettes of Fresno window sticker, membership directory, club by-laws, nametag and many other goodies.

The annual dues are \$95.00 per year per couple, or \$77.00 per year per individual.

COF BOARD MEETING NOTICE

CORVETTES OF FRESNO BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE START TIME IS 6:30 PM EVERYONE IS WELCOME

2015 TRIVIA

The big news for 2015 was the introduction of the C7 Z06 featuring a brand new 625HP supercharged LT4 engine. For the first time, the Z06 could now be ordered as a coupe with removable roof panel or a convertible with choice of a 7-speed manual transmission or new 8-speed automatic.

CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC 2015 OFFICERS

President: Chris Campbell

E-mail: president@corvettesoffresno.com

Phone: 559- 289-8054

Vice Pres.: Chuck Feccia

E-mail: events@corvettesoffresno.com

Phone: 559-432-4228

Secretary: Nancy Teixeira

E-mail: secretary@corvettesoffresno.com

Phone: 559-449-1505

Treasurer: Kaye Campbell

E-mail: treasurer@corvettesoffresno.com

Phone: 559-681-1510

Membership: Clay Mumby

E-mail: <u>membership@cor</u>vettesoffresno.com

Phone: 503-507-3059

Webmaster: Kerry Dehmel

E-mail: webmaster@corvettesoffresno.com

Phone: 559-292-7274

Newsletter: Jim Agar

E-mail: jim.agar@att.net Phone: 559-297-2200

WSCC Representative: Allen Teixeira

E-mail: representative@corvettesoffresno.com

Phone: 559-449-1505

Sunshine: Sharon Minnich

E-mail: saminnich@yahoo.com

Phone: 559-449-3331



FIBERGLASS FOREVER IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION.

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES NO LATER THAN THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH VIA EMAIL TO:

jim.agar@att.net



Hello Everyone,

As the year comes to an end, I want to thank the Board and the Membership for your support during my first year as President. We have a lot of wonderful people in this club and it's special to be a part of it.

It has been an enjoyable year; we have had a lot of fun and special experiences that will create lasting memories. Our club can be proud that we are able to donate \$5,000 this year to our 3 charities, this is due to the hard work of the Tahoe Committee and all of the volunteers that made it happen.

We had a strong turnout for the Veterans Day Parade (27 cars); Billie Talley did a great job. After the parade and lunch, we were served wonderful deserts at her house. Steve Profera and Jackie Christani put on a Meet and Eat at Christie's Bar, we had BBQ, Spirits and fun with all 42 attending.

The COF Christmas Party is on the 6th, Billie Talley is working hard to make this a special event, hope to see you all there! We are at a new restaurant this year; check the flier that was emailed.

Larry and Sharon Minnich are hosting a Christmas Desert Social at their house on Dec. 13th. I'm looking forward to all of the deserts and company. Time to let the belt out, a little more....

Our web site is currently under construction and should be up and running soon.

I want to thank the outgoing Board Members for their contribution and support this year, Steve Profera, Jackey Christaini and Pam Forester. Let's welcome the new Board

Members and give them your support, Chuck Feccia 1st VP – Activities, Clay Mumby 2nd VP – Membership and Nancy Teixeira Secretary.

I know I've wished you this before, but every year I wish it more, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you Chris Campbell





Call to Order:

President Chris Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:57 P.M. Board Members present were Kaye Campbell, Jacklyn Christani, Steve Profera, Jim Agar, and Clay Mumby in place of Pam Forrester. The Pledge of Allegiance was shared by all.

Secretaries Report:

Minutes of the meeting October 2014 are published in the COF newsletter. A motion to waive the reading of the October 2014 minutes was made by Nina Gagnebin, and seconded by Celia Feccia, Motion carried A motion to accept the October 2014 minutes as published in the Fiberglass Forever newsletter was made by Angie DiLiddo and seconded by Nancy Teixeira, Motion Carried Unanimously!

Treasurers Report:

Kaye Campbell reported the accounts activity for October, which is on file to be reviewed by members only. A Motion was made to approve the treasures report as read. The Motion was made by Billie Talley and seconded by Larry Minnich, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Membership:

Clay Mumby reported attendance for the November 18, 2014 meeting. There were 54 members and 3 guests, Jerry Baldwin he is hoping to get a 2015, Tom and Amelia Kutz who just purchased a 2008 crystal red convertible. Corvettes of Fresno have 114 members and 74 corvettes.

All November birthdays and Anniversaries were acknowledged. All November Birthdays and Anniversaries can be found in the 2014 membership directory. The amount of the name tag drawing for the month of October is \$60.00. Remember to always sign in at the beginning of all meetings!

Communication:

Jim Agar announced that the November edition of Fiberglass Forever, that there were 20 pages printed and 57 pages on the Corvettes of Fresno web site. If anyone has any articles or pictures for the Newsletter for the December edition please submit to Jim Agar by Friday November 21, 2014, in the A.M.

Webmaster:

Webmaster Kerry Dehmel announced the web site is down for renovation; hope to have it up soon.

Activities:

Steve Profera reported, please refer to the Calendar of events in the club newsletter or on the club web site, www.corvettesoffresno.com for more details and up to date information. Guests are encouraged to attend any event, come join the fun! Remember all sign up sheets are on the side table.

Numerous past events were discussed.

November 11 was the Veteran's Day Parade, Billie Talley reported that there were 27 Corvettes in the parade and about half were veterans. After the parade they headed to Yosemite Falls Café for lunch and then on to Billie's house for dessert of Peach Cobbler. November 16th Steve and Jackie had a meet and eat at Christie's Bar with BBQ food from the restaurant next door, 42 attended with 17 vettes.

Report on upcoming events:

December 6th COF Christmas Party, Billie Talley is in charge starts at 6pm at High Sierra Grill cost is \$30.00 per person..

December 13th is a Christmas Dessert get together at Larry and Sharon Minnich's house, details will be emailed to everyone.

February 28th Ice Breaker in Monterey, Steve Profera reporting that we will stop in Los Banos, Gilroy Garlic Shop, have lunch at Whole Enchilada and then on to Casa Munros, you can now call to make your reservations.

January there will be a meet and eat date yet to be decided by Larry Minnich.

Tahoe 47:

Allen reported that everything is on track, we have 14 registrations in and the next Tahoe meeting will be on Tuesday January 14 at Denny's Blackstone and Herndon @ 7pm.

Allen Teixeira gave a report for WSCC, asked if everyone received their Red Line and said WSCC annual meeting is in January in Pleasanton and the Convention is the first week in July in Reno.

Sunshine Report given by Sharon Minnich, she expressed greeting to some members who were in attendance who had previous health concerns and gave update on Lloyd Cox and Terry Cavanaugh.

Old Business:

ACCC newletter is on the table if anyone interested and if they have any questions they can see Lee Delap. There was no other old business.

New Business:

The board decided on 3 charities to give Tahoe 46 donations to, they are Nancy Hinds Hospice, Marjorie Mason Center, and Ronald McDonald House. A date to deliver the checks will be announced and anyone is welcome to go along when they are delivered.

Chris thanked the Board members who are leaving the board for a good job; they are Pam Forrester, Steve Profera, and Jackey Christani. The new Board members were welcomed, Clay Mumby Membership 2nd Vice President, Chuck Feccia Activities 1st Vice President, and Nancy Teixeira Secretary.

Name Tag Drawing:

The drawing for this month is \$60.00 and Patti McGraw's name was drawn and she was not present so the amount goes up to \$70.00 for the January meeting.

50/25/25 Raffle:

First ticket drawn was Amelia Kutz for \$42.00, second ticket drawn was Helen Jolly also for \$42.00, third ticket was Sharon Minnich for gift certificate for Yosemite Falls and the fourth ticket was Joan Kozera also for gift certificate from Yosemite falls.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Teixeira







NANCY TEIXEIRA SECRETARY

CLAY'S MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership

Clay reported that as of the 2014 Calendar Year COF has 114 members and 74 cars.

WELCOME

Members & Guests

Total attendance: 54 - 51 Members & 3 Guests: Jerry Baldwin and Tom and Amelia Kutz

Nametag drawing

Patty McGraw's Name was drawn, She was not present. Next Months Drawing will be for \$70.00.

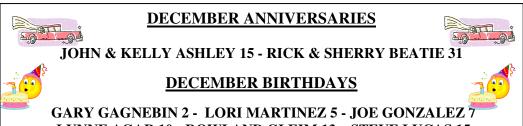
> CLAY MUMBY MEMBERSHIP

Remember to wear your nametag at the meeting for a chance to win.

Club Directories and Updates

The 2015 electronic copy of the club membership directory is available online at www.corvettesoffresno.com (contact Kerry Dehmel for the new access info)

Sharon Minnich & Joan Kozera each won a \$10.00 gift certificate to Yosemite Falls Cafe.



GARY GAGNEBIN 2 - LORI MARTINEZ 5 - JOE GONZALEZ 7 LYNNE AGAR 10 - ROWLAND GLEIM 13 – STEVE LUCAS 15 ROLANDO MARTINEZ 18 - DIANE HUSS 22 - LIOYD COX 23 LIZ DeVOE 24 - KIRK YERGAT 24 - CONNIE QUIGLEY 26 LARRY MINNICH 26 - JERRY NAJARIAN 29 JO JOHNSON 30 50/25/25 DRAWING
WINNERS
AMELIA CUTZ
HELLEN JOLLY
EACH WON
\$42.00
CONGRATULATIONS

From: Lloyd & Gwen Cox

We would like to Thank everyone for your prayers and thoughts. Lloyd has been home for almost two weeks and is gaining strength every day.

We would like to again Thank everybody for your support.



"THIS COMPUTER IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AIRBAG IN CASE YOU FALL ASLEEP! "



CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014 & 2015

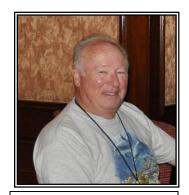


<u>DECEMBER 2, 2014 TUESDAY - BOARD MEETING</u> 6:30 PM AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE

<u>DECEMBER 6, 2014 - SATURDAY - COF CHRISTMAS PARTY</u> - CONTACT BILLIE TALLEY - 559-960-4666 <u>DECEMBER 13, 2014 - SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS DESSERT</u> AT THE MINNICH'S - INFO TO BE E-MAILED

<u>JANUARY 13, 2015 - TUESDAY</u> - TAHOE MEETING 7:00PM AT DENNYS - BLACKSTONE & HERNDON <u>JANUARY 20, 2015 - TUESDAY - GENERAL MEETING</u> 7:00 PM AT YOSEMITE FALLS CAFE LOCATED AT 4020 N. CEDAR IN GRANITE PARK

<u>FEBRUARY 28, 2015 - SATURDAY - ICE BREAKER RUN TO MONTEREY</u> - STEVE PROFERA - 559-681-7865



CHUCK FECCIA VP ACTIVITIES

TAHOE PLANNING MEETING

THE NEXT TAHOE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00PM TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 2015 AT DENNY'S ON THE CORNER OF BLACKSTONE & HERNDON

PLAN A RUN TAKE US TO YOUR FAVORITE PLACE



VETS DAY PARADE



























VETS DAY PARADE



























Corvettes of Fresno

Please join us for our

Annual Christmas Party

Saturday December 6, 2014

at

High Sierra Grill House

(S. W. Corner of Bullard & West)

6:00 pm — No Host Bar

7:00 - 8:00 pm - Dinner

8:00 — 12:00 pm - Music, Dancing (JT & Sarah)

\$30 per person

Enjoy a dinner of both Tri-Tip and Chicken

Hosted By:

Billie Talley 960-4666

Please RSVP <u>not later than</u> November 29, 2014

Make checks payable to <u>Corvettes of Fresno</u>

Mail to Billie Talley

5091 N Fresno St. Suite 112





CORVETTES OF FRESNO



DUFFEL BAG





WE HAVE A FEW EXTRA BAGS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE NOW!

THESE ARE GREAT FOR GYM BAGS - OVERNIGHT USE OR TO KEEP IN YOUR CAR FOR CAR CARE SUPPLIES

ALL NET PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE BAGS GO TO OUR TAHOE 47 FUNDRAISER.

CONTACT JIM AGAR TO RESERVE YOUR COF BAG



October 2014 Corvette Sales

General Motors reported their October 2014 vehicle sales yesterday morning and it shows that 2,959 Corvettes were delivered during the month. According to the report, sales are down year to year by -24.7% but don't think for a minute that sales of the Stingray are starting to cool. We'll be back to explain in a moment.

For the Calendar Year to Date (January-October), Corvette sales total 28,909 vs the 11,759 sold during the same time period in 2013.



For a month to month comparison of sales from September 2014 to October 2014, Corvette sales are up nearly 20%. But that figure is an anomaly as well due to a stop sale order that may have impacted some deliveries in September.

Why are sales down -24.7%?

If you remember last year, Chevrolet starting building Corvettes in late August and then held back deliveries while the car underwent a series of quality assessments before being released for shipping. Many of the first Corvettes that were built were delivered in October 2013 which resulted in one of the largest sales figures for the sports car with 3,929 deliveries during the month.

Here's the GM Sales Report for Corvettes in October 2014:

Corvette Delivery Statistics for October 2014											
	M	lonth		Calendar Year-to-Date							
Month	2014	2013	% Change	Months	% Change						
Oct	2,959	3,929	-24.7%	Jan-Oct	28,909	11,759	145.8%				

Corvette Sales Monthly Archive:

Archived Monthly Corvette Delivery Statistics													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	2,261	2,438	3,480	3,514	3,328	2,723	3,060	2,679	2,467	2,959			28,909
2013	908	980	1,053	974	905	853	671	655	831	3,929	2,527	3,005	17,291
2012	629	927	1,376	1,396	1,219	1,475	987	1,210	1,351	1,167	1,104	1,291	14,132
2011	721	955	1,163	1,454	1,304	1,299	1,291	936	1,147	946	910	1,038	13,164
2010	854	624	955	1,089	1,428	1,405	1,199	1,135	1,109	1,011	836	979	12,624
2009	842	1,027	1,183	1,407	1,643	1,396	966	746	1,585	1,154	952	1,033	13,934
2008	2,015	2,071	2,692	3,190	2,904	2,082	1,870	4,242	2,318	1,170	1,093	1,324	26,971
2007	2,234	2,784	3,158	3,227	3,300	2,377	2,377	2,877	2,837	2,484	2,438	2,914	33,685
2006	2,579	3,058	3,655	3,516	3,317	2,938	2,794	2,990	3,056	2,761	2,773	3,081	36,518

Overall, GM delivered 226,819 vehicles in the United States which was the best October sales figure since 2003. Chevrolet sales are up year to year with strong sales of the Silvado, Cruze, Traverse and Equinox.

Car and Driver Names the Corvette Stingray to its 2015 10Best Cars List

The honors continue to roll in for the seventhgeneration Corvette Stingray.

Car and Driver has just named the Stingray to its 2015 10Best Cars list and gushes on and on about the work that chief engineer Tadge Juechter and his crew have done with the car, almost to the point of being embarrassing.



"Even in this, its second year on our list, C7s hypnotize, the convertible and coupe equally. Sitting in the lot among the other contenders, they stand out as if rendered on a Retina display while others are appearing on a CRT," Car and Driver writes.

The magazine notes that the Corvette has come a long way since its birth in 1953, primarily thanks to the V8 engines that have created countless amounts of horsepower since being introduced in 1955.

"Other engines may make more power or have more exotic designs, but there is no engine that feels closer to a living, breathing entity than the Corvette's pushrod V-8," C&D writes.

The new LT1 is no goody-two-shoes, though, as *Car and Driver* says "it reminds you constantly of its presence, just on the other side of the fire wall behind the axle centerline. At idle, the Corvette vibrates to its pulses, urging you to uncoil the tension in the pedals and shifter."

We love this quote about the car: "The steering wheel, brakes, and seat bottom tell you more about current events than CNN."

The seven-speed transmission remains the magazine's favorite, but they praise the eight-speed automatic new for 2015 as well as the Performance Data Recorder.

The interior also draws praise: "Criticisms of Corvettes past have been addressed: A modern cockpit and supportive and comfortable seats testify to the thoroughness of Chevrolet's mission (accomplished) in remaking the car."

While some might think that the new has worn off the Stingray's design by now, *Car and Driver* begs to differ, saying the "Stingray looks transplanted from childhood fantasy, an interstellar dragon. We hear it roar, smell the heat of the LT1 cooking its own polymer skin, and the Corvette turns such imaginings into reality."

In short, Car and Driver reports, "the C7 is the best-ever Corvette."



CORVETTES OF FRESNO, inc ADVERTISING CORNER





Danny Ohano

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Autoblog Names the 2015 Corvette Stingray as a Finalist for its 2014 <u>Technology of the Year Award</u>

Autoblog's editors have been busy checking out the latest technologies in this year's batch of cars and trucks and have narrowed down the list to 14 finalists for its annual Technology of the Year award. One of those 14 finalists is the 2015 Corvette Stingray which made list with its new Peformance Data Recorder with Valet Mode.

The Performance Data Recorder is the brain child of Corvette Product Manager Harlan Charles who has been working on the PDR concept for years. In fact, the PDR as an option took longer to develop than the entire C7 Corvette. It's another



industry first for Corvette and no doubt we'll see other manufacturers copying the tech because it's just that cool.

The Performance Data Recorder has a 720 HD camera mounted inside the car just to the right of the rear view mirror. It's connected to a microphone and the data recorder captures in-car audio and front-facing video of the Corvette. The PDR records 30 different data points from the gear you are in to the angle of the steering wheel to how forcefully the brakes are being applied. The data is stored on a SDHC card and the data can be downloaded in the Cosworth toolbox for analyzing and improving your driving.

In addition to capturing and analyzing your driving at the track, the PDR also makes a pretty handy dash cam for your daily commutes.

The second part of the Performance Data Recorder is the Valet Mode, which has been in the news recently for all the wrong reasons. The Valet Mode will record audio and video whenever the car is started and if you think a valet has damaged or hooned the car out of your presence, you can playback the footage on the car's interior monitor to make sure. Unfortuantely, varying wiretap laws have forced Chevrolet to issue a warning about using Valet Mode until a solution can be offered.

The neat thing about Autoblog's 'Best Tech' award is seeing the various technologies that are being



evaluated. Other finalists include the Dodge Challenger Hellcat for its "performance pages", the new Mustang's track apps with line lock and the Mercedes Benz S550 which features a vehicle stabilization technology called Magic Body Control.

We figure it will be a tough decision for *Autoblog's* editors as they work to name the winner which will be announced at the 2014 Los Angeles Auto Show in just a few weeks.

Corvettes on Craigslist: 1967 Corvette Sting Ray Barn Find

The holy grail for many collectors is finding that diamond in the rough – the rough being a dusty barn or garage where Corvettes are parked and never driven again.

Now here's another 1967 Corvette Coupe that was just pulled from the garage of its owner since 1972. This one will be a real project car, however.



The sellers, who are a full service Corvette only restoration shop in Arkansas, say they will let you have the car as-is for \$29,900 or they "could perform any level of restoration" that you'd like.

The car was originally silver on black, but now it's been stripped down to the fiberglass.

The build sheet found on the tank indicates that it was originally sold at Mosher-Lally Chevrolet in Bedford, Ohio.

Options include 327/350 hp engine, M21 four-speed transmission, 4:11 rear end, redline tires, AM/FM radio, and power steering. The car currently has side exhausts, too.

The sellers say the car has not run in many years.

"What you see in pics is what we have," they say.

Known parts missing are front bumpers and brackets, spare tire (tub is there), disc brake center caps, and a couple of beauty rings.

If you're up for a little work and have enough cash, this one could turn into a real beauty. Here's hoping someone out there is up for the challenge of saving another C2 Corvette.

Corvette Production By-Products Helping America's Bat Population

We've always thought the seventh-generation Corvette Stingray looked like a Batmobile.

Now we know one reason why.

General Motors says remnants of an adhesive used to join body panels of the 2015 Stingray can be reused to help save an embattled bat species in North America.

White-nose syndrome has already killed an estimated 5.7 million bats in the United States and Canada. No cure exists for the disease, which causes bats to die after they wake up from hibernation too often, but scientists believe non-toxic fungicides and artificial bat caves may help the bats to survive.

That's where the leftover adhesive used on the new Stingray comes into play. GM has discovered that the adhesive can become a stalactite in artificial bat caves, allowing hibernating bats more surface area from which to hang and spreading them around the cave to cut down transmission of the disease.

It's important to save bats because they are a key part of the circle of life, if you will. For example, one bat can eat up to 5,000 insects in a single night, helping farmers cut down on their use of pesticides. Bats also help with pollination, repopulating plants and maintaining forests.

"We need to do what we can to prevent more bats from contracting white-nose syndrome while they are hibernating," said Rob Mies, executive director for the Organization for Bat Conservation. "Researchers are working around the clock to find a way to stop the transmission from occurring in caves. This disease is occurring at a rapidly escalating rate and if a solution is not found soon, many bat species could face extinction."

Using the adhesive remnants means GM doesn't have to send it to a landfill. The robots that apply the adhesive to join Corvette parts are purged periodically to keep dried material off the applicator, and this dried gunk is great for making a stalactite.

GM actually does more than its share to take care of the environment. For example, scrap Chevrolet Volt battery covers are also being used to create bat houses that can be home to as many as 150 brown bats and also have been transformed into specially designed structures to serve wood ducks, owls, bluebirds and scaly-sided mergansers – an endangered species.

"We think of waste as just a resource out of place and work hard to keep materials in use," said John Bradburn, GM global manager of waste reduction. "Just like our stalactite concept or our bat houses, we seek out creative reuse projects that touch other elements of sustainability such as community engagement and wildlife preservation."

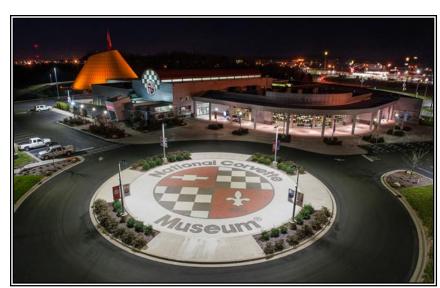
GM Brownstown Battery Assembly, which generates scrap as it assembles battery packs for the Volt, is one of GM's 122 landfill-free facilities.

Corvette Museum Upgrades to LED Lighting System for Energy Efficiency and Savings

Visitors to the National Corvette Museum are seeing things these days in a new light – literally.

The museum recently upgraded lighting in its three parking lots with LED luminaires that will offer many advantages over the old metal halide lights.

"The exterior lighting allows us to dramatically reduce operating expenses," said Bob Hellmann, the museum's facilities and displays manager. "Additionally, the new lights



help make the parking lot bright and secure."

The museum replaced 17 1000-watt metal halide lights with 17 240-watt LED luminaires and another 27 400-watt metal halides with 27 120-watt LED luminaires.

It expects to save \$9,300 each year in energy expenses and avoid practically all of the additional \$2,000 spent annually to maintain and repair the old fixtures. Payback will be just three years.

Two key priorities for the upgrade were improving the quality and color rendition of the lighting, and having better control of lighting energy use while maintaining or improving the lot's safety. Mission accomplished! According to a story in LEDs Magazine, the LED luminaires "provide consistent light levels for the entire parking lot, reduced hazardous waste disposal and provide dramatically more efficient light distribution than the metal halide fixtures," not to mention the elimination of virtually all maintenance.

To top it off, Tennessee Valley Authority gave the museum \$9,350 in incentives to install the new luminaires.

It's all part of a continuing green effort by the museum to save energy and lessen its carbon footprint. NCM has also upgraded other exterior and interior fixtures to slice energy costs even more and improve the quality of lighting.

"The energy efficient lighting allows us to drive down operating expenses, present our cars and exhibits in the best light, and contribute to the greening of our community," said Hellmann. "We installed the LED luminaires and the more efficient fluorescent lights because they pay back in so many ways and it's the right thing to do."

1965 Corvette Sting Ray Barn Find

A 1965 Corvette convertible barn find crossed the block a few days ago at Vicari Auctions' annual fall auction at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi.

But it proved to be a no-sale.

Here's the background on the car. After a decade of normal use, during which about 75,000 miles were put on the odometer, the 327/300 Sting Ray suddenly was put to rest, resting on jack stands in a heated and cooled warehouse since early 1975 – nearly 40



years! Even the license plate on the back was from that year.

Cool story, but bidding at the auction reached \$40,500, which the seller turned down.

Now the vintage Corvette has turned up again, this time on eBay, where through Saturday morning, the bid had climbed to just \$30,200.

In the eBay description, seller Cody says the car is a real Rally Red 900UU with black interior code. "Both tags are still in place and look to have never been tampered with in any way," he says.

The seller calls the body "amazing," saying that it "doesn't appear to have any cracks in the fiberglass that I can see. None of the original wheel wells appear to have ever been cut on or touched, all bonding strips are perfect, just a overall amazing body."

He says the car still has its original 327/300 hp engine and four-speed transmission, though the original breather is gone. "The gentleman that had the car changed the breather out very early in its lifetime to the little open element you see on it now," Cody says.

The Corvette is a two-top car, with the black convertible top not seeing the light of day since 1975, the seller says.

Meanwhile, the interior is all original and untouched, with the major problems being worn carpet on the driver's side where your heels rest and splits in the seams on the bottom of the seats on both sides.

Everything else, he says, "appears to be in super shape and with some cleaning would probably look just like new."

By the way, the car still has the original coating of dust that collected on it during the past 40 years, and the new owner will have the option of cleaning the car or leaving it as is.

We wonder what we would do in such a situation. The uniqueness of the car really is the fact that it sat in a warehouse for 40 years – does removing the dust turn it into just a normal C2 Corvette?

Fire Claims a C4 Corvette in Minnesota

It's hard to look on the bright side when the owners of a 1991 fully restored Corvette are standing there, looking at the fire-ravaged remains of their pride and joy.

But for Chad and Carrie Wendel of Morristown, Minn., the fire that broke out last Thursday morning could have been much worse.

Ordinarily, the car is always in the garage, but that day Chad had backed their red Corvette coupe into the driveway to charge the battery.



He went inside briefly, and when he returned, the car was ablaze.

The heat was already melting the siding on the house, so he ran to close the garage door and get a fire hose.

Just a couple of minutes later, the quick-arriving Morristown Fire Department was there and put the fire out.

Unfortunately, as you can tell from the photo, the front of the car was badly damaged, and the interior likely suffered water and other damage, too.

The Wendels said the car was insured and is worth about \$10,000 to \$12,000. We'd guess that it's a total loss based on that value.

Fortunately, no one was hurt in the blaze, and the Wendels' home apparently suffered only cosmetic damage, at least based on the photo.

It could have been worse.

GM Reveals Restored 2009 Corvette ZR1 Blue Devil from NCM Sinkhole at SEMA

In the early morning hours of February 12th, a large sinkhole opened inside the Corvette Museum's Sky Dome and swallowed eight Corvettes. Nearly nine months later, General Motors has unveiled the restored 2009 Corvette ZR1 Blue Devil Show car for the 2014 SEMA show.

The 2009 Corvette ZR1 Blue Devil was one of two sinkhole Corvettes owned by GM that were on loan to the National Corvette Museum. The Blue Devil was the last Corvette to fall into the sinkhole, coming to rest on its four wheels about 30 feet below the structure's floor.



The recovery of the ZR1 was symbolic for various reasons. It was the first Corvette to be raised and its condition wasn't all that bad. In fact, once the car was raised out of the sinkhole, it was to be started and driven outside under its own power.

In the days following the Sinkhole, GM pledged to help with restoration of the cars. Although eight Corvettes fell into the sinkhole, only three of the vehicles, the 2009 ZR1, a 1962 Corvette and the 1992 1 Millionth Corvette were candidates for restoration. The other five will be come a permanent display in their recovered state to preserve the event.

"After that unprecedented event, the ZR1 was the first car to be lifted out of the sinkhole," said Jim Campbell, U.S. vice president, performance vehicles and motorsports. "It was great to recover it, bring it back to Chevrolet and begin the restoration of this significant Corvette."

GM picked up the Blue Devil in September and transported it back to Detroit for restoration. Damage to the car included:

- Cracked carbon-fiber ground effects and a broken passenger-side rocker panel
- Damaged passenger front fender, as well as cracks in both doors
- Cracked windshield, hood window glass and passenger headlamp assembly
- Bent rear control arms on the driver's side
- Cracked oil lines to the supercharged LS9 engine's dry-sump oiling system.

The restoration of the Blue Devil ZR1 took only six weeks to complete. GM provided the following photos of the restoration process and then check out the video with Jim Campbell and members of the Chevrolet Performance Team were on hand to witness the official first start of the 2009 Corvette ZR1 Blue Devil at a special event at GM's Heritage Center.

October 2014 Corvette Sales

General Motors reported their October 2014 vehicle sales yesterday morning and it shows that 2,959 Corvettes were delivered during the month. According to the report, sales are down year to year by -24.7% but don't think for a minute that sales of the Stingray are starting to cool. We'll be back to explain in a moment.

For the Calendar Year to Date (January-October), Corvette sales total 28,909 vs the 11,759 sold during the same time period in 2013.



For a month to month comparison of sales from September 2014 to October 2014, Corvette sales are up nearly 20%. But that figure is an anomaly as well due to a stop sale order that may have impacted some deliveries in September.

Why are sales down -24.7%?

If you remember last year, Chevrolet starting building Corvettes in late August and then held back deliveries while the car underwent a series of quality assessments before being released for shipping. Many of the first Corvettes that were built were delivered in October 2013 which resulted in one of the largest sales figures for the sports car with 3,929 deliveries during the month.

Here's the GM Sales Report for Corvettes in October 2014:

Corvette Delivery Statistics for October 2014											
	M	lonth		Calendar Year-to-Date							
Month	2014 2013		% Change	Months	2014	2013	% Change				
Oct	2,959	3,929	-24.7%	Jan-Oct	28,909	11,759	145.8%				

Corvette Sales Monthly Archive:

		•												
	Archived Monthly Corvette Delivery Statistics													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
2014	2,261	2,438	3,480	3,514	3,328	2,723	3,060	2,679	2,467	2,959			28,909	
2013	908	980	1,053	974	905	853	671	655	831	3,929	2,527	3,005	17,291	
	620	007	1 276	1 206						•	•	•	•	
2012	629	927	1,3/6	1,396	1,219	1,4/5	987	1,210	1,351	1,167	1,104	1,291	14,132	
2011	721	955	1,163	1,454	1,304	1,299	1,291	936	1,147	946	910	1,038	13,164	

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      2010
      854
      624
      955
      1,089
      1,428
      1,405
      1,199
      1,135
      1,109
      1,011
      836
      979
      12,624

      2009
      842
      1,027
      1,183
      1,407
      1,643
      1,396
      966
      746
      1,585
      1,154
      952
      1,033
      13,934

      2008
      2,015
      2,071
      2,692
      3,190
      2,904
      2,082
      1,870
      4,242
      2,318
      1,170
      1,093
      1,324
      26,971

      2007
      2,234
      2,784
      3,158
      3,227
      3,300
      2,377
      2,377
      2,877
      2,837
      2,484
      2,438
      2,914
      33,685

      2006
      2,579
      3,058
      3,655
      3,516
      3,317
      2,938
      2,794
      2,990
      3,056
      2,761
      2,773
      3,081
      36,518
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Overall, GM delivered 226,819 vehicles in the United States which was the best October sales figure since 2003. Chevrolet sales are up year to year with strong sales of the Silvado, Cruze, Traverse and Equinox.

Manchester United Players Spurning Free Corvettes and Camaros?

Maybe Chevrolet needs to rethink its partnership with the popular Manchester United soccer club.

Two years ago, the car manufacturer made a deal with the team, giving all the players their choice of any Chevy model, including the Corvette.

At that time, the team's coach, Sir Alex Ferguson, reportedly barred players under age 23 from choosing a Corvette, apparently because he was afraid they would drive them too fast and get hurt.



Now Manchester United is in the news again, this time because the players allegedly don't want to drive the 15 mostly new Stingrays and Camaros offered to them in April as part of a 47 million GBP sponsorship deal with Chevy.

It's being reported on the Internet that the players prefer to stick with European cars like Porsches and Ranger Rovers instead of the Stingrays offered to them for free by Chevy.

For its part, Chevy has dismissed these reports, saying the cars were part of a "voluntary drive program" and the players weren't obliged to climb behind the wheel.

Still, it's hard to believe anyone would turn down a new Stingray, which is more than competitive with the likes of Ferraris and Porsches. But when these players are earning millions of dollars a year running up and down a soccer field, a \$55,000 or even a top-of-the-line \$75,000 Z51 Stingray just may not be exclusive enough for them.

The 1971 Jimmie Johnson LT1 Corvette Concept at SEMA

For this year's SEMA Show, Chevrolet collaborated with NASCAR racer Jimmie Johnson to personalize a classic 1971 Corvette which would feature a new LT1 crate engine from Chevrolet Performance as well as updates to the interior and exterior.

The 1971 Corvette was at the Chevrolet Design Studios in Warren Michigan when Johnson first saw the unrestored Stingray.



"The 1971... I just love older cars," says the 5-time NASCAR Champion. "Just the stance on that car, especially sitting behind the wheel, look up and see the big front fenders. That whole look is something that stands out to me."

The car's build started with the new LT1 crate engine available from Chevrolet Performance. The engine is offered with either a wet-sump or dry-sump versions and can be ordered with the electornic controller and harness as well as a front-end accessory drive system to support the integration of the engine into the build.

The LT1 was a tight fit into the 1971 Corvette's engine bay and the build team did have to do some custom modifications to make it fit.

The chassis was also given a make over with adjustable coil-over suspension replacing the original components for more precise handling while brakes from the track-proven C6 Corvette Z06 will provide exceptional stopping power.

"I really like to let the originality of the car kinda show through... that's just my style. I think the paint section were making is really going to give the car some depth and help the curves of the car show up and look real well sitting on display. And then powertrain. You know, it's going to be a sound fast responsive car, but a '71. which is pretty rad." says Johnson

The exterior of the 1971 Corvette was painted a unique silver-blue exterior color with a two-tone After Midnight dark silver trim accents and Satin Dark Android graphic accents.

On the inside, Johnson kept the original look of the car by selecting origins-style bucket seats in black leather with suede inserts. Johnson also selected a suede-wrapped three-spoke steering wheel and carbon fiber accents. Jimmie Johnson's signature is also featured on the floor console, door panels and seat backs. A plaque on the center console lists the specs of the 450-hp LT1.

"Jimmie Johnson is an enthusiast who has restored several classic Chevrolets and he knew exactly what he wanted – classic design supported by modern performance," said Jim Campbell, U.S. vice president, performance vehicles and motorsports.

1964 Fuel Injected Corvette Garage Find

Here's a garage find C2 Sting Ray with an interesting past.

After being driven sporadically by the owners for a couple of years, this 1964 Corvette coupe has been sitting in a garage on jack stands since sometime in early 1973. The long-time owner died earlier this summer, and the car was dug out from the garage and sent all the way across the country to a fellow named Rick F on the West Coast.



Rick found a yellowed newspaper from April
1973 that even included some pretty good prices on clothing at a place called Hudson's Budget Stores.

Though the car doesn't run, all the parts seem to be there. After hooking up a battery, the power windows still worked and the lights came on.

The Corvette has a pretty impressive options list, too, with the original 327/375hp fuel-injected engine, one of just 1,325 fuel injected Sting Rays that year. It also has the J40 suspension and the aforementioned power windows.

The new owner says he and his dad are already busy with a 1959 Corvette after having completed a 1967 already.

"So we haven't made the final decision on what to do with this one," Rick says. "If we keep the car it will be a full body off restoration keeping it 100% stock. If we decide to sell the car, somebody is going to get a very rare project."

In the comments section of this post on BarnFindes.com, several readers expressed their viewpoint that the car should just be cleaned up and polished and left as a survivor, as a car is "original" only once. A



look at the photos shows a Corvette that isn't perfect by any means, but still it would be a sharp car with just a little elbow grease.

Of course, that's the beauty of the Corvette hobby. There is no right or wrong way to treat a Corvette if the owner is at least doing something to save another classic Sting Ray from death.

We certainly wish Rick luck in his quest to save his garage find and eagerly await the ultimate fate of this Sting Ray!

2015 Corvette Z06 Convertible Wrecks in the Rain in Michigan

Here's a sight most Corvette enthusiasts don't like to see.

This is the first time we've seen a 2015 Corvette Z06 Convertible out in public wearing the new Daytona Orange Sunrise.
Unfortunately, the 650-hp super car made somewhat of a spectacle of itself by losing control on wet roads and taking out another vehicle on its way to a ditch on I-94 in Jackson, Michigan over the weekend.

We got an email from a witness to the accident who was very



concerned that a Corvette with Manufacturers Plates from Michigan was operating on wet roads with "bald tires". She describes the accident as happening like this:

The vette spun out and took another vehicle with it through a cable wire median, shredding the vehicle to the point where the cable almost came through the drivers seat, and as youll [sic] see from my pictures, ended up facing backwards on the opposite side of the barrier that it originally spun out from.

The Corvette Z06 looks to be equipped with the Z07 Performance Package which includes Michelin's Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires. (Not only is the clear wicker bill spoiler on the car but you can see the huge Brembo carbon ceramic rotors clearly in one of the photos as well.) To those that may not be familiar with the tire, it can definitely appear to be "bald". It's hard to tell from the pictures how much rubber is actually remaining on the tires as once they went off-road, they appear to be have picked up a ton of dirt and debris.

The pictures of this crash come just as Chevrolet begins retail production of the Corvette Z06. The first customer cars will hopefully be delivered in time for Christmas. Unfortunately, that means pictures of the first customer-owned Corvette Z06 to be involved in an accident won't be that far behind.

The Corvette Stingray May Be Too Loud for South Korea

While we think the Corvette Stingray is a gift to the world, some countries appear to be holding off on selling the car due to reasons we think make the Corvette great in the first place.

Take South Korea for instance.

Chevrolet announced in 2012 that with the new free-trade agreement, the Corvette would be imported into



the country. But now we are learning that the Korean government's regulations on engine noise may be holding up imports of the new C7.

After a "Chevrolet Track Day" ride and drive with reporters last week at Yongin Speedway, GM Korea president Sergio Rocha talked about the C7 imports during a question and answer session: "The launch of the seventh-generation Corvette is being delayed indefinitely due to Korea's regulation on automobile noise. Although such regulatory stance may benefit the industry in the short run, I wonder if that's something that should be in place for a long time."

Hard to believe that the throaty V8 sound of the Corvette Stingray is a turn-off in some parts of the world but then again, American's aren't know for being bashful.

The chief of GM Korea also let it be known that only 12 Corvette are imported on average per year and therefore the cost of developing a car to meet safety and exhaust requirements for the market makes it hard when dealing those kinds of quantities.

GM Korea's exports are still reeling from Chevrolet's decision to pull out of the European market which saw exports of 150,000 cars to that region disappear overnight. The company has record-high sales levels in the domestic market though and is also considering the importation of the Chevrolet Impala.

Corvette Assembly Plant Offering a 2015 Corvette Calendar

The Corvette Assembly Plant has come up with a great way to enjoy Corvettes and help the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at the same time.

Christine Cartwright, executive assistant to the Corvette Plant Manager and Assistant Plant Manager in Bowling Green, has created the new 2015 Corvette Z06 Stingray calendar.

"For those of you who purchased one last year," Christine says, "this year's calendar is similar but BETTER!"

The calendar, available for \$17 plus shipping, includes lots of exclusive photos from inside the plant with the car in various stages of assembly on the line. I've toured the plant several times and always wished I could take some photos while I'm there. This is even better, though.



The calendar also features "gorgeous photos" of the new Z06 and the Stingray out on the road, too, Christine promises.

To place your order securely with Paypal, just click on the link: http://corvetterelayteam.weebly.com/2015-corvette-calendar.html

As Christine says, "WE LOVE CORVETTES - WE HATE CANCER!"

Remember, only a limited number of calendars are available. They're sure to make the year fly by, literally; after all, we're talking about Corvettes, aren't we?

Man Drives Soon To Be Ex Wife's C4 Corvette into the Delaware River

This 1990 Corvette is the latest victim in a divorce case that has made national headlines.

Police say a Pennsylvania man who is in the middle of divorce proceedings made good on his threat to wreck his wife's Corvette by driving it into the Delaware river.

Witnesses say the 50-yearold husband dumped the car into the river just below the



Tacony-Palmyra Bridge on Monday and then fled as the car submerged into the dark water. Police divers were called and after a 30 minute search confirmed finding the unoccupied vehicle in about 30 feet of water. Divers then attached a cable to the car and it was pulled back onto shore just after sundown.

Philadelphia Police Inspector Scott Small described the recovery of the Corvette, "There was no visibility whatsoever. The divers just had to go by feel. They found the vehicle, they went inside the vehicle which is extremely dangerous because you can get trapped with all the debris. They were able to feel that there was no one inside."

Police say that the car was registered to the wife and that she has a restraining order against her husband. She told WLNS.com that he has threatened to dump the car in the river if she didn't meet his demands and that this was payback for not allowing him to drive a van that the couple co-owns.

Philadelphia Police Inspector Scott Small explains, "The Corvette is registered to the wife so I guess he was angry with his wife and took her car, drove it to the Delaware River."

The husband is now facing several misdemeanor charges including reckless endangerment for putting police offers and divers in harm's way during the search and recovery of the Corvette.

The First Retail 2015 Corvette Z06 Has been Built

This week marks a special milestone for the 2015 Corvette Z06. The Corvette Assembly Plant just completed its first retail production of the new 650 horsepower Z06, a Black coupe that will go to Chevrolet dealer and NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick.

Earlier this year, Hendrick paid one million dollars at Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach to own the first retail VIN of the Corvette Z06 with the proceeds of that sale going to charity.



A member of the *StingrayForums.com* named elegant was at the plant in Bowling Green on Monday and witnessed Hendrick's new Corvette Z06 coming off the assembly line at 9:26 am. Corvette Plant Manager Jeff LaMarche and other plant staff were there for photos documenting the roll-off.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant is building just under seven Corvette Z06s per hour. All the Z06s currently being built are manual Coupes but Corvette Marketing Manager Todd Christensen told us at SEMA that Convertibles will start production later in November and Corvette Z06s with the new 8-speed automatic transmission will start production in December.

If the roll-out of the Corvette Z06 is anything like last year's Stingray rollout, then we can expect for Chevrolet to hang onto these completed cars until a series of quality assessment checks have been completed.

Autoblog reached out to Chevrolet spokesperson Monte Doran who provided the following statement. "Yes, we started producing customer cars yesterday," said Doran. "We are not shipping cars to customers yet, though. We're still doing final quality checks and audits and will begin shipping cars in the coming weeks."

In related Corvette Z06/Stingray production news, Christensen told us that the CFZ option is on full constraint for Stingray orders as the Carbon Fiber Ground Effects Package has been prioritized for Corvette Z06 production.

Finally, Chevrolet touted the return of the Engine Build Experience at SEMA. The program allows owners to build their own supercharged LT4 engine under the watchful eyes of the Chevrolet's engine builders at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant's Performance Build Center. The program is slated to start up in January, but currently the pricing for the Experience has yet to be finalized. The Corvette Museum will play more of a role in the Engine Build Experience this time around and NCM will receive part of the funds raised from the program.

Corvette Stingray Gets Sideways at the Track

Maybe this driver should have stuck with the fancy technology that Chevrolet has built into the seventhgeneration Corvette.

Instead, he turned the traction control off and over corrected as he was drifting around a corner heading into a straightaway.

The Stingray started doing a zig-zag dance, slid sideways into barriers, and wound up on its passenger side, no doubt



inflicting thousands of dollars in damage.

Fortunately, unlike some of the disastrous accidents on the roads elsewhere involving fatalities in Stingrays, this driver was reportedly not hurt, but his wallet probably took a beating unless he happened to have special insurance for such activities at the track.

As one poster commented: "The Stingray has one of the best traction control systems extant, with many modes and one of the only ones that can make a driver both quicker and safer on track. Turn off the TC at your own peril."

Another person took the opposite view: "It helps to turn off all the driver aids and just drive the car, raw. To get a feel for it. Sounds like he was doing the 'drift king' and went a little too far...... It happens. I track my car, just have to ease into. Not just go for broke on every lap. Good for him, to actually use a corvette instead of sitting in a parking lot polishing the rims."

What do you think? Is it foolish to drive a Stingray for the purpose it was designed, or just the opposite, foolish to let it sit in a heated garage with nary a piece of dust on it?

On a related note, our friends from NCM Insurance Agency are now offering on-track insurance which will cover your Corvette at HPDEs.

The 2009 Corvette ZR1 Blue Devil Returns Home to the National Corvette Museum

Last week at the SEMA Show in Las Vegas, the National Corvette Museum's Sinkhole was a topic of conversation for many Corvette enthusiasts but this time its in the news for all the right reasons. Chevrolet used the spotlight of SEMA to showcase the completed restoration of the 2009 Corvette ZR1 Blue Devil prototype that was damaged after falling into the sinkhole that opened up in the middle of the NCM's skydome in February.



The sinkhole at the NCM formed and swallowed eight Corvettes in the early morning hours of February 12th and I am sure no one will forget the photo of the 2009 Corvette ZR1 sitting on top of the pile roughly 30 feet below the floor. Nearly three weeks later in early March, the Corvette ZR1 was hoisted out of the sinkhole and to the delight of the workers and Museum staff, the prototype started and was driven outside under its own power.

Chevrolet picked up the Corvette ZR1 in September and the car was returned to Detroit where it underwent its rehab which took six weeks to complete.

Now that the SEMA Show is over, the Blue Devil prototype has returned to the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green and will once again join the other "sinkhole" Corvettes on display.

Chevrolet Prices the 2015 Corvette Z06 in Canada at \$85,095

Good news for our Corvette friends in the Great White North!

Chevrolet has finally issued pricing for the 2015 Corvette Z06 in Canada. The 2015 Z06 Coupe will start at \$85,095 while the Z06 Convertible has an MSRP of \$90,595. Those prices do not include the \$1,800 destination charge.

GM Canada says the Z06 Coupe will go on sale in early 2015 while the Z06 Convertible will be available starting sometime in the second quarter of 2015.



"The Corvette has long been known as North America's sports car," said Mark Reuss, General Motors' executive vice president, Global Product Development. "With the capability of the new Z06 rivaling the best performance cars in the world, we will also be North America's Supercar."

Canadian pricing for the Z06 Coupe is \$7,095 over the MSRP of the Corvette here in the States which is \$78,000 and the Z06 Convertible is \$7,959 more than the MSRP of the Z06 Convertible which starts at \$83,000. Pricing for the U.S.-based Corvette Z06s do not include the \$995 destination charge.

Although Chevrolet released the pricing for the Corvette Z06 here in the States back in August at Corvettes at Carlisle, up until this point we've heard nothing about pricing in Canada. With production of the first retail Corvette Z06s starting this week, the release of pricing for Canada came just in time. "The defining aspect of driving the Z06 is seamless integration of power, technology and aerodynamics," said Tadge Juechter, Corvette chief engineer. "As a result, the Z06 delivers ferocious acceleration, tenacious handling, and high-speed stability that few cars can match."

The Corvette Z06 is the fastest and most capable Corvette Chevrolet has ever built. With 650-hp and 650 lb-ft of torque, the new supercar achieved a sub 3 second 0-96 km/h and under 11 seconds in the quarter mile.

Corvettes on eBay: Dealer Offers a 2015 Corvette Z06 for \$122K

More times than not during the roll out of a new Corvette model do we see some dealers using market conditions to jack up the price over the MSRP. Of course we do not feel sorry for any buyer who purchases their new Corvette this way when there are so many quality dealers who are selling at MSRP. But hey, if you got to be among the first to have it now, then check out this listing on eBay.

Rogers Auto Group of Chicago has a black on black 2015 Corvette Z06 3LZ with the Z07



Performance Package listed on eBay with a buy it now of \$122,000. The auction closes in just a couple hours and it does have more than a few watchers. Rogers says the Z06 order has been accepted into Chevrolet's order system but they do not yet have the VIN.

We ran the rough prices on this Z06 and the term 'loaded' certainly fits. The Z07 Performance Package adds \$7,995 and the 3LZ equipment group adds \$8,650. We see the CFZ Carbon Fiber Effects package option for \$2,995 and the interior comes with the FAY Carbon Fiber surround. That totals \$98,635 with the \$995 destination charge. We're sure there's a few more items on this car that were not counted, but you get the drift. There's no doubt that the Corvette Z06 is in high demand. Many dealers have told us that they've already filled their allocation lists. Still, I wonder if we will see a frenzy with pricing like we did with the 2009 ZR1. During that initial roll out, we saw dealers asking for \$185,000 for the supercharged C6, a markup of \$70,000!

We understand if you got the means and want to be among the first, then you got to pay the price if you didn't get your name on a list. If this black Z06 doesn't sell here on eBay, you can contact April Andresen at 888-669-3596 for more information.

And while on the subject, might we suggest several dealers who sponsor our website and they all sell new Corvettes at (or below) MSRP. If you're in the market for a new Corvette Z06 or a Corvette Stingray, please check them out and go with the one that makes the most sense for you:

- Kerbeck Corvette Atlantic City, NJ Dave Salvatore 877-537-2325
- Criswell Chevrolet Gaithersburg, MD Mike Furman 301-212-4420
- Sport Chevrolet Silver Spring, MD Robert Kramer 888-880-9772
- Purifoy Chevrolet Fort Lupton, CO Marissa Marx 303-535-5095

Man Reunited With His Dad's 1978 Corvette After A 15 Year Search

A man's first car has a special place in his memory.

Joshua Gierke of Enon, Ohio wanted his first car to be a very special one – a 1978 Corvette that he remembered riding in with his father as a 4-year-old.

Unfortunately, by the time he got his driver's license in 2003, the Corvette was no longer in the family as Joshua's dad had sold it five years earlier in 1998 because of financial issues.



It took Joshua 11 years, but he

finally was able to locate that special car thanks to a persistent search, the Internet, and the help of many strangers. Now the Silver Anniversary Edition Corvette occupies a permanent spot in his garage.

The search began when Joshua was just 16 years old, with a call to the company that his dad had sold the Corvette to, but they delivered the bad news that they had just destroyed the documents as part of an every five year cleaning-out process.

Joshua didn't give up, though.

"I spent the next nine years searching once a week for the car online," he said. "Sometimes my search slowed down, but I never quit."

He eventually paid a fee to the website Instavin, and they were able to tell him the car had last been registered in Arkansas. After seeing Joshua's subsequent post on Craigslist asking for help finding the Corvette, a stranger in Arkansas went to the state DMV and located it for him.

After negotiating with the current owner, Joshua traveled 11 hours to the small town of Elkins, Ark., to buy the long-sought-after Corvette.

"The search that had consumed so much time had finally paid off," Gierke said. "I remember the owner talking, and telling me stuff about the car, and I was just completely zoned out. I just kept looking at it, remembering when I was a kid."

Joshua is all smiles now that he has been reunited with his dad's old Corvette.

"It is an everyday reminder not to give up, no matter how impossible what you are going after seems to be," he said.

Bloomington Gold Corvette Show to Move to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for 2015

Bloomington Gold, the iconic "Granddaddy of Corvette Shows" has officially announced that they will be hosting the 2015 gathering (and beyond) at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The dates of the event in 2015 are June 25-27, which shifts the show to a more travel-friendly Thursday-Saturday format.

The show will be taking over the entire IMS complex for the three day show. That includes the tracks, the garages and even the golf course will be offered to attendees.



"Corvette owners will be able to experience the thrill of driving laps on the oval, high speed rides on the race course and more high speed events than any other car show has to offer," says Guy Larsen, President.

Bloomington Gold was started in Bloomington, Ill. in 1973 and over the years the show has taken place at various sites throughout Illinois. The last two years, the show was held in Champaign, ILL but construction on the grounds was one of the reasons the show decided to look for a better venue.

"Chevrolet Corvettes have served as the official Pace Car for the Indianapolis 500 a record 12 times, so it's a perfect fit for the nation's premiere all-Corvette show to be showcased at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway," said J. Douglas Boles, Indianapolis Motor Speedway president. "We're looking forward to hosting Bloomington Gold Corvettes USA along with thousands of Corvette and automobile enthusiasts for a great three days at 'The Racing Capital of the World."

Boles says the show is a chance for the Speedway to connect with car enthusiasts who may not be racing enthusiasts. Over 5,000 Corvettes are expected to appear at the Bloomington Gold Show when it comes to IMS.

2015 Corvette Z06's Fuel Economy Rating is 23 MPG Highway and 13 MPG City

Many were impressed when the EPA rated the fuel economy for the 2015 Corvette Stingray with the 8-Speed Automatic Transmission at 29 MPG Highway so naturally we've been waiting to see where the new Corvette Z06 would come in. After all, the 8-speed automatic was made specifically for the new 650 horsepower super car.



Although it has yet to be confirmed by GM, the official EPA fuel economy ratings for the new 2015 Corvette Z06 have been published on the U.S. Department of Energy's FuelEconomy.gov website. The entry shows that the 2015 Corvette Z06 with the new 8-speed automatic transmission will get 23 MPG on the highway and 13 MPG in the city for a combined rating 16 MPG.

The fuel economy rating for the supercharged 650 horsepower Z06 was pretty much in line with expectations.

The supercharged 2013 Corvette ZR1 with 638 horsepower achieved a 21 MPG highway and 14 MPG city for 17 MPG combined. The C7 Z06 squeezes those two extra highway MPGs from the LT4's fuel saving technologies which include variable valve timing, direct injection, and the addition of "Eco-Mode" which shuts off four of the eight cylinders.

The 2015 Corvette Stingray is also listed on the FuelEconomy.gov website and that confirms that the Stingray with the 7-speed manual transmission is rated at 29 Highway and 17 City for a combined 21 MPG while the 8-speed automatic Stingray is rated at 29 Highway and 16 City for a combined 20 MPG.

The government website lists only the Z06 equipped the new 8-speed automatic so we might see either similar or a slight uptick in the highway and combined MPG ratings when the 7-speed manual Corvette Z06 is evaluated.

Now for the bad news.

The Corvette Z06's combined rating of 16 MPG puts the 650-horsepower sports car into the gas guzzler category. We've checked with several dealers and although it has yet to be confirmed officially by the Corvette Team, we are hearing that a \$1,300 gas guzzler tax will be assigned to the car. We have reached out to Corvette Marketing Manager Todd Christensen for confirmation and will report back as soon as we know more.

Unknown at this point is what will happen with the current in-system orders for the Corvette Z06 with the manual transmission which are now being built if they are also classified as a gas guzzler. We assume it will be as the 2013 ZR1 with the 6-speed manual transmission was also classified as a gas guzzler. Will these orders be price protected or does the government's mandated tax will mean that the gas guzzler tax will have to be collected before the car can be delivered to its new owners? These are all unknowns at this point which hinge on when the manual transmission cars will officially be rated.

We doubt that the gas guzzler tax will cause serious buyers of the 2015 Corvette Z06 to turn away from buying the new 650 horsepower sportscar but it's too bad that interested buyers are only finding out now about the tax.

John Hennessey Talks about the C7 Corvette Z06 at SEMA

When John Hennessey of Hennessey Performance talks, car enthusiasts listen.

Hennessey delivered a "State of the Aftermarket" speech during the recent SEMA Show in Las Vegas, and he offered some advice that anyone seriously interested in buying a 2015 Corvette Z06 would do well to consider.

"I think a lot of people out there are thinking, gosh, I love the new C7 and I want to get a Z06 and I read online somewhere that they're 78 grand and that's a great bang for the buck," Hennessey said.

But the reality is that Economics 101 and supply and demand are going to come into play rather quickly.

"Most dealers are going to be lucky if they get allocated one car and they're gonna have a lot more orders than vehicles that they can deliver," Hennessey says.

"The reality is that very few are gonna be able to get the cars and a lot of people are gonna be waiting a long time."

He also points out that he doesn't know how many of the Z06s will come at that stripped-down price in the upper 70s and predicts that most will instead come loaded out, pushing their sticker price above \$100,000.

"They're gonna have the Z07 package where you've got the carbon fiber aero package, carbon brakes, (and) I'm guessing those are gonna be more like a hundred grand, a hundred and five grand, which is a heck of a bang for the buck – it'll be like a C7 version of the last generation ZR1."



But most dealers are not going to charge MSRP, Hennessey believes. "I know of a dealer in the Houston area – they're getting 20-25 thousand over sticker," he says. "So all of a sudden, you read online that the Z06 is gonna be \$78 grand or whatever, well, it's really gonna come loaded out, and they're a hundred. Then after you pay over sticker, you're gonna be in the car for a buck and a quarter or a buck 30."

That's where Hennessey Performance can help out, Hennessey points out.

"You can still go out and get a nice Z51, 3LT car and send it to us, we can upgrade it," he says, "or you can wait for the new Z06."

And Hennessey does it quickly, usually with a 30-day turnaround time.

Of course, there will still be thousands of lucky people who do buy a Z06, and Hennessey says his company will be there to offer performance upgrades for them, too.

"We're gonna do the same type of stuff that we did with the last generation ZR1," he says. "We're going to offer ported cylinder heads, we're gonna have a camshaft upgrade, we're going to modify the blower for more boost."

Hennessey believes there's easily another 100-150 horsepower to be coaxed out of the stock blower, but to go beyond that will require a larger blower or a twin turbo package.

The stock Z06 has the respect of Hennessey, though.

"I'm very confident that Chevrolet and the engineers within the Corvette team are gonna build a car that's gonna be an absolute world beater," he says.

One area of improvement, though, would be the seven-speed transmission, according to Hennessev.

"From what I've read, the car's actually gonna be faster with the eight-speed automatic than with the seven-speed, which by the way I'm not a big fan of the seven-speed. It's a little notchy, and the whole idea

of going to seventh gear is just a little weird for me. We just got a new 2015 Stingray that's got the eight-speed. I haven't got a chance to drive it, but my guys say that it just shifts really, really fast."

Hennessey believes the hot setup for the 2015 Z06 will be with the eight-speed automatic but says that his company will still do packages for the old-school guys who prefer a manual.

In summary, Hennessey believes that horsepower is alive and well in America and says that the recent SEMA Show was the largest he 's seen since 2008, and maybe the biggest ever.

"Props to the guys at Chevrolet for building another bad-ass car," he concludes.

Kelly Blue Book Names 2015 Corvette Stingray a Best Value of 2015

The awards keep piling up for the seventh-generation Corvette Stingray.

The 2015 edition has just been named Kelley Blue Book Best Value of 2015 – Performance Car, beating out a fellow Chevrolet, the Camaro, as well as the Dodge Challenger, Ford Mustang, and Porsche Cayman.

Praises KBB: "Everything about the Chevy Corvette makes pure sense in a modern



sports car. It is as joyous and painless to crackle off dazzling lap times in the Vette as it is to drive it to work. And with exterior presence that's as hook-filled as an electric guitar solo, and a clean, modern driver's interior that indulges you and your passenger with high-quality materials and a whip-smart design layout, everything about the 2015 Corvette is an improvement on our memories of it."

Also earning praise as "a treat for nostalgic shift-it-yourselfers" was the standard seven-speed manual transmission, and KBB "wholeheartedly" endorsed the new eight-speed automatic.

KBB says the new Corvette offers plenty of surprises, not the least of which is the 29 miles per gallon fuel economy on the highway – despite the powerful standard 455 horsepower engine.

"That's better highway fuel economy — significantly better — than any other V8 available in any of our Best Buy Award winners, regardless of category," KBB praises.

And to add to the economic argument for buying a Stingray, KBB points out that they honored the seventh-generation Corvette last year as the Best Resale Value Award winner in High Performance Cars, along with being named one of the top five Best Resale Value Award winners out of every vehicle sold in the U.S.

"If you still have any doubts about whether the 2015 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray might be the smartest buy in its category," KBB concludes, "then it's time to move on — we can only offer you our sympathy."

Chevrolet Debuts Chaparral 2X Vision GT Concept for Gran Turismo 6 at the LA Auto Show

After a week of teases Chevrolet took the wraps off the new Chaparral 2X Vision GT (VGT) Concept yesterday at the LA Auto Show. The futuristic Vision GT Concept, which was made for the PlayStation 3 game Gran Tursimo 6, is inspired by the Chevrolet's collaboration with Chaparral which goes back more than 45 years.

The Chaparral Racing program was know for its unconventional and boundary-pushing race cars. Chevrolet and Chaparral teamed up over 45 years ago and pioneered the now-standard practice of using composite and light-weight powertrain



systems as well as using active aerodynamics to keep the cars planted to the road.

PlayStation 3 gamers will get to drive the Chaparral 2X VGT by downloading an update for the Gran Turismo 6.

"This concept is an audacious and ambitious vision – and one that demonstrates to a new audience how Chevy's engineering and design teams challenge norms and explore the technologies of tomorrow," said Clay Dean, executive director of advanced design. "It also an ode to a unique partnership that pioneered ground-breaking technologies that are used today on the track and the street."

Not only is the design of the Chaparral 2X VGT futuristic looking, but so is the concept behind the car's concept propulsion system. It features a 671-kW laser beam powered by a pack of lithium-ion batteries which pulses beams of light that focus in a shroud, creating show waves that generate tremendous thrust in the race car. The system is said to provide 900 horsepower worth of thrust and in the game the care will be capable of reaching a top speed of 240 mph and will go 0-60 mph in 1.5 seconds.

But not really. The working system lives only in a video game and its only theoretical at this point. Another interesting part of the concept is how the driver "sits" in VGT – or rather – lays downs in the car. The propulsion system layout creates an unconventional yet highly active prone driver configuration – face down with the driver's arms and legs splayed toward the wheels. In fact, the race car's propulsion and suspension systems are built around the driver, enabling progressive strategies of active and driver-adjustable aerodynamics.

"It was created in a no-rules atmosphere to challenge designers and test engineers to deliver the most exhilarating sensations. This is a fantasy car by design," said Frank Saucedo, who oversaw the team that worked on the concept. "Like the original Chaparral race cars decades ago, the Chaparral 2X VGT weaves advanced aerospace technologies into the design to help achieve its performance goals."

"The Chaparral 2X VGT is a vision of how advanced technology may shape the look and driving experience of racing," said Saucedo. "Chaparral's race cars and methods were seen as outlandish four decades ago, and with the innovative spirit still burning at Chevrolet, the Chaparral 2X Vision Gran Turismo concept might just be a harbinger of motorsports in the next four decades."

Other manufacturers have developed concept race cars for the Vision Gran Turismo project, but Chevrolet is one of the few to transfer it from the digital world to a physical concept vehicle.

Car and Driver Names the Corvette Stingray to its 2015 10Best Cars List

The honors continue to roll in for the seventhgeneration Corvette Stingray.

Car and Driver has just named the Stingray to its 2015 10Best Cars list and gushes on and on about the work that chief engineer Tadge Juechter and his crew have done with the car, almost to the point of being embarrassing.



"Even in this, its second year on our list, C7s hypnotize, the convertible and coupe equally. Sitting in the lot among the other contenders, they stand out as if rendered on a Retina display while others are appearing on a CRT," Car and Driver writes.

The magazine notes that the Corvette has come a long way since its birth in 1953, primarily thanks to the V8 engines that have created countless amounts of horsepower since being introduced in 1955.

"Other engines may make more power or have more exotic designs, but there is no engine that feels closer to a living, breathing entity than the Corvette's pushrod V-8," C&D writes.

The new LT1 is no goody-two-shoes, though, as *Car and Driver* says "it reminds you constantly of its presence, just on the other side of the fire wall behind the axle centerline. At idle, the Corvette vibrates to its pulses, urging you to uncoil the tension in the pedals and shifter."

We love this quote about the car: "The steering wheel, brakes, and seat bottom tell you more about current events than CNN."

The seven-speed transmission remains the magazine's favorite, but they praise the eight-speed automatic new for 2015 as well as the Performance Data Recorder.

The interior also draws praise: "Criticisms of Corvettes past have been addressed: A modern cockpit and supportive and comfortable seats testify to the thoroughness of Chevrolet's mission (accomplished) in remaking the car."

While some might think that the new has worn off the Stingray's design by now, *Car and Driver* begs to differ, saying the "Stingray looks transplanted from childhood fantasy, an interstellar dragon. We hear it roar, smell the heat of the LT1 cooking its own polymer skin, and the Corvette turns such imaginings into reality."

In short, Car and Driver reports, "the C7 is the best-ever Corvette."



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