



FIBERGLASS FOREVER



CORVETTES OF FRESNO

"HOME OF THE LONGEST RUNNING ANNUAL CORVETTE EVENT ON THE PLANET"

ESTABLISHED 1963

JANUARY 2015



OWNER: RICK & SHERRY BEATIE

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 13, 2015 - TUESDAY - TAHOE PLANNING MEETING

7:00PM AT DENNY'S - BLACKSTONE & HERNDON

FEBRUARY 28, 2015 - SATURDAY - ICE BREAKER RUN TO MONTEREY

CALL CASA MUNRAS HOTEL 1-800-222-2446 ASK FOR CORVETTE OF FRESNO

SPECIAL ROOM RATES - STEVE PROFERA - 559-681-7865

TAHOE 47 - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2015



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



Myself – Get some of this extra weight off and try to keep it off.

My Corvette – Get it cleaned out and try to keep it clean.

Myself – Exercise more and try to stay fit.

My Corvette – Exercise it more and try NOT to get a ticket.

Myself – Try to enjoy life more this year.

My Corvette – Try to attend more Club activities this year

Myself – Try to appreciate others more.

My Corvette – Try to appreciate other Corvettes,

even though yours is “nicer”

Myself – Be friendlier to others.

My Corvette – SAVE THE WAVE!



“I will not eat, or smoke in my car.”

“I will not text while driving.”

“I will keep my tires properly inflated.”

“I will change my oil every 5000 miles.”

“I will put together a roadside survival kit.”

Corvettes of Fresno



Ice Breaker – 2015

Saturday – February 28, 2015

Mark your calendar and make your reservations

Call Casa Munras Hotel 1-800-222-2446 ask for Corvette of Fresno special room rates. The hotel restraint will provide us with a 10% discount ask for coupon at check in.

We will meet at the corner of Herndon & 99 @ 7:45 AM

We will form 2 Groups of cars with the first group leaving @ 8:00 AM & the second group leaving @ 8:15.

Please bring some snacks for the poolside party Saturday night (no dinner provided).

Please Note

There will be a run fee of \$5.00 per car to cover the cost of the morning snacks; this will be due & payable before the run!!

Destination – Saturday

- 1. Carl's Jr west end of Los Banos for coffee & donuts**
- 2. Drive to Garlic Shoppe Hwy 25 & Hwy 101 Gilroy**
- 3. Drive to the Whole Enchilada Moss Landing for lunch**
- 4. Casa Munras Monterey Poolside party.**
- 5. Dinner where you want**

Sunday

Drive home at your leisure.

Communication

Steve's cell (559) 681-7865

Radio – Ch 4



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



All Net proceeds from Tahoe 47 will be donated to Charity

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Thursday:

11:00 AM - 5:00 pm REGISTRATION HOURS

TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE REGISTRATION

CALL LYNNE AGAR @ 559-593-1126 PRIOR TO 8:00 PM THURSDAY

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.corvettesoffresno.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

also released via e-mail - jim.agar@att.net

FIBERGLASS FOREVER



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

1953 TRIVIA



On Tuesday, June 30, 1953 Corvette #1 Serial Number E53F001001 rolled off the assembly line, and Corvette production began.

Want the rarest Corvette? In 1953 the first two Corvettes, VIN Numbers 1 and 2 were said to have been destroyed, but no records prove that fact and there are no witnesses to the destruction. Who knows? They still might be out there somewhere.

The first Corvettes were literally "rolled" off the assembly line. The early production line was not prepared for grounding to a fiberglass body and thusly the first cars would not start.

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: membership@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 503-507-3059

Webmaster: Chris Campbell
E-mail: webmaster@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 559-289-8054

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



(559) 291-7711

At Shaw and Freeway 168 in Clovis
www.hedrickschevrolet.com

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



THE PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



I hope you all had a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

I want to thank everyone for all of your participation this year, we had great experiences, a lot of fun and a few challenges. It's time to look forward to the New Year with anticipation of what's to come!

Keep coming up with ideas for new runs and bring back runs from the past that were successes, no problem repeating great ideas. Make sure you keep in touch with our new VP of Activities – Chuck Feccia, with all of your upcoming runs and meet and eats, so he can help keep us organized.

If you have anyone who is interested in joining the club, have them get in touch with our new VP of Membership – Clay Mumby. He will give them all of the information they need and get them on the way to becoming a member.

Our new Web Site is up and running and it seems to be getting positive reviews. In the future I will be adding Run Pictures, Charity Information, Members Car Pictures and an Archive section. Please check out the site when you get a chance and let me know if you see any problems or errors.

Billy Talley's Christmas Party was a great success. The food was good and the company was even better. Everyone had a good time and there was even a song sung by the COF Quartet (Billy Talley, Allen Teixeira, Susan Rivas and Nick DiLiddo).

Larry and Sharon Minnich hosted a Christmas Desert Drop-In at their home. They had a great turn out with plenty of deserts and sprits. Their house was beautifully decorated for the holidays and everyone had great time.

The proceeds from our Tahoe 46 Event were presented to our Charities on Dec. 15th. Jim Agar, Allen Teixeira, Larry Minnich, Clay Mumby, Steve Profera and Kaye Campbell, joined me in presenting the checks. MarJaree Mason Center received \$2,000, Hinds Hospice received \$2,000 and Ronald McDonald House received \$1,000. The amount given to Marjaree and Hinds was double the amount from last year and Ronald McDonald House is our newest Charity and this was their first year to receive our contribution.

A lot of people work hard on our Tahoe Event, to make it successful. Everyone gets to have a good time and enjoy themselves. But in the end, when it's over and you see the difference our donations make to these Charities, that's the real success that comes from all of your hard work.

Well, that's all for now.
See you at the next meeting!

Chris Campbell



CLAY'S MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Membership

Clay reported that as of the 2015 Calendar Year COF has 114 members and 74 cars.

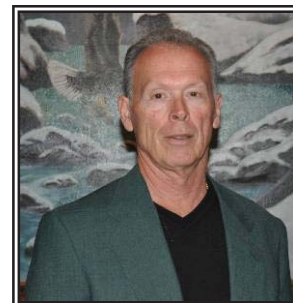


Members & Guests

The Christmas Party replaced the December Meeting

Nametag drawing

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 Chris Campbell for the new access info)

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

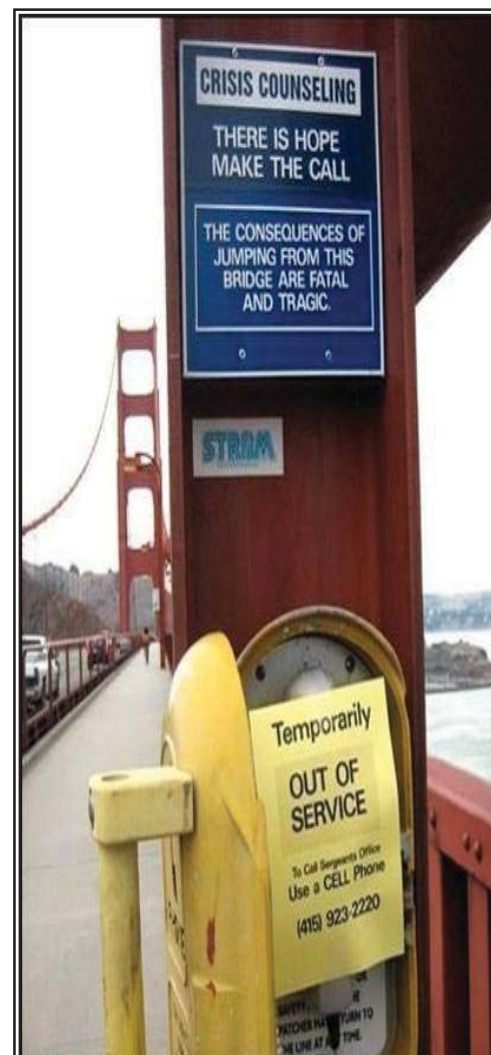
ALLEN & NANCY TEIXEIRA 31

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

PAM FORRESTER 3 - BOB REINKE 3 - JUDY JOHNSON 5
LAN MUMBY 6 - BRUCE LOONEY 7 - SHERRY BEATIE 10
NANCY TEIXEIRA 15 - ASHLEY BAKER 20 -
JEANNIE DEHMEL 20 - KERRY DEHMEL 21
JACKEY CHRISTANI 23 - JIM KOZERA 27



50/25/25 DRAWING WINNERS





CHUCK'S 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS PAGE



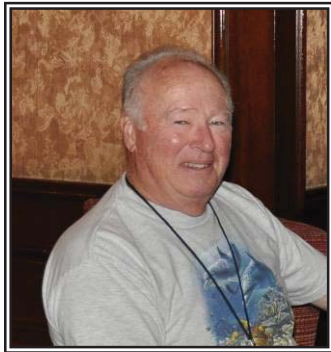
JANUARY 6, 2015 TUESDAY - BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY
ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE

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

JANUARY 20, 2015 - TUESDAY - GENERAL MEETING 7:00 PM AT YOSEMITE FALLS CAFE
LOCATED AT 4020 N. CEDAR IN GRANITE PARK

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

APRIL 2015 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY - NETHERCUTT COLLECTION & NHRA MUSEUM -
MORE INFO & FLYERS AT THE JANUARY MEETING - JIM AGAR - ALLEN TEXEIRA



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

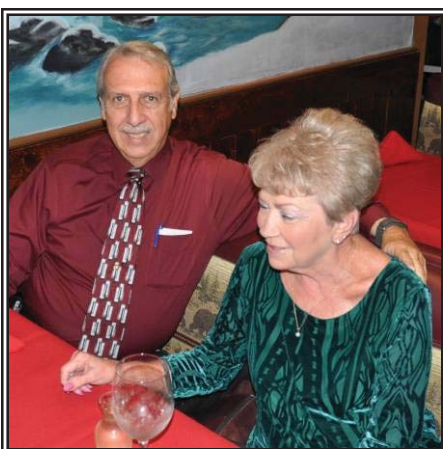
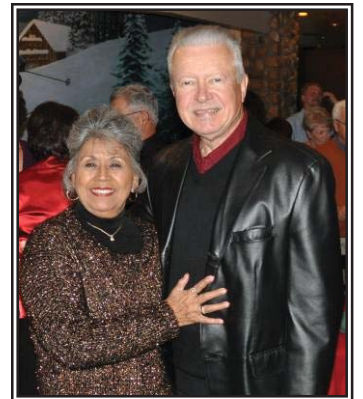
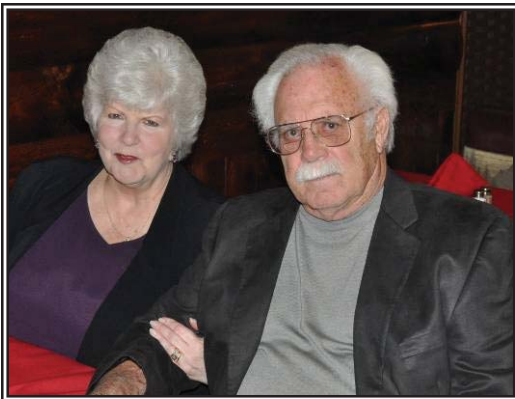
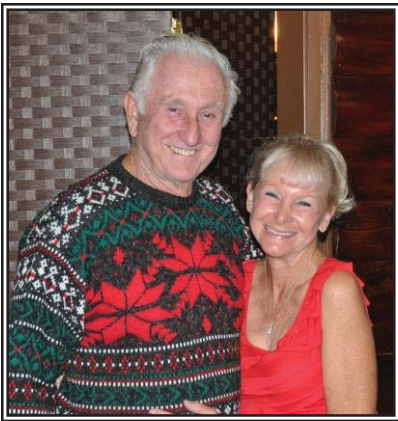
SAVE THE DATE-JUNE 25-28, 2015

CORVETTES at LAKE TAHOE

FOR MORE INFO:
CALL CHARLIE HYATT @ (818)298-0473; E-MAIL laketahocorvetteclub@hotmail.com OR
GO TO www.laketahocorvetteclub.org

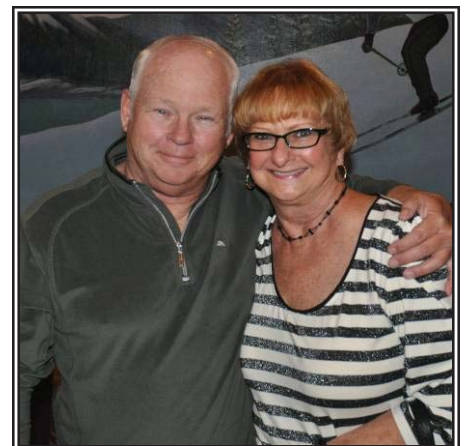
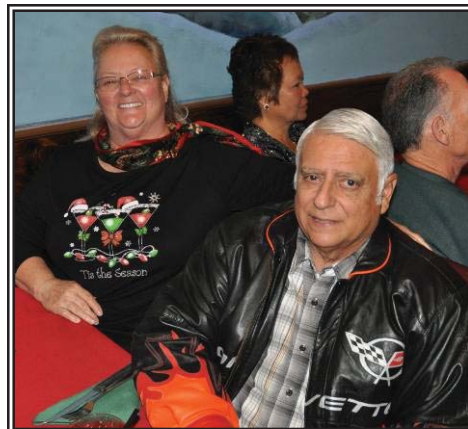
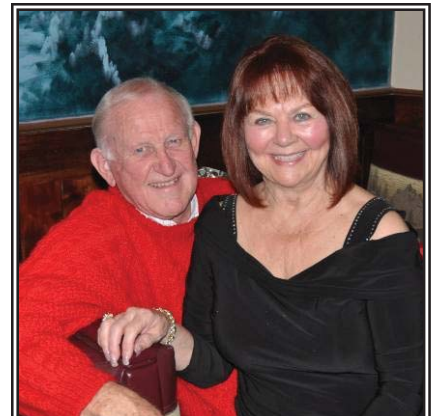
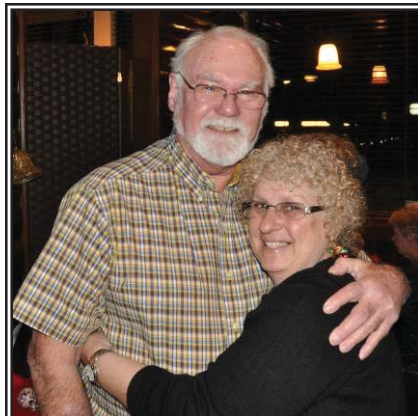
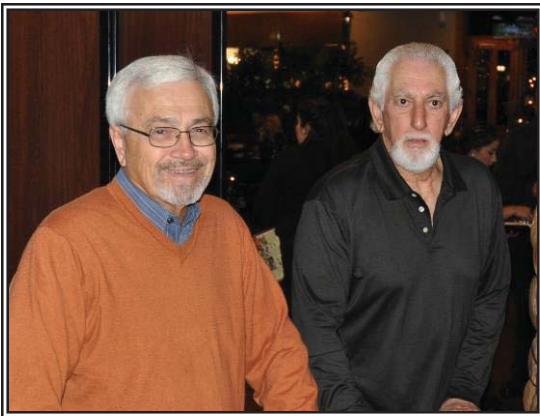


CHRISTMAS PARTY



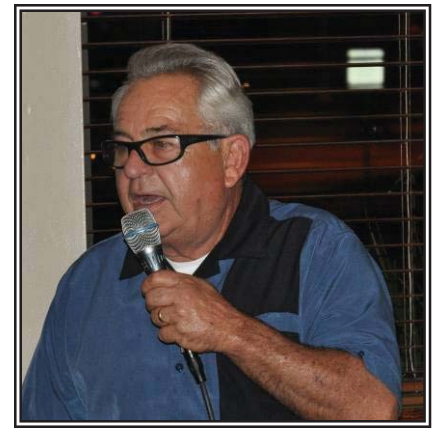
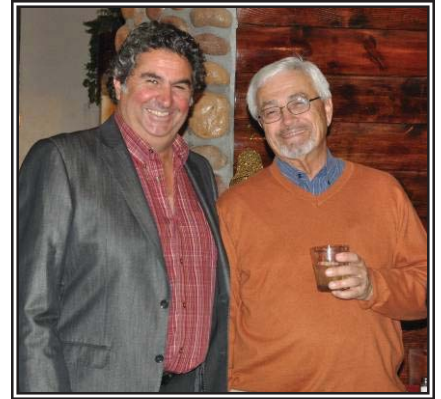
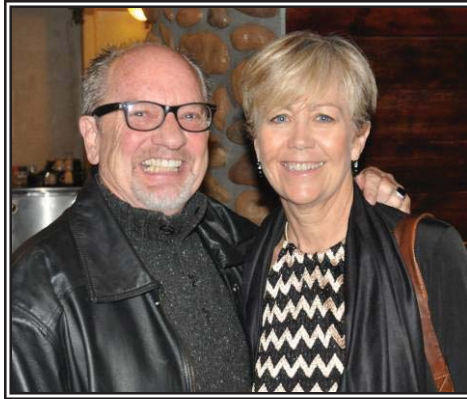


CHRISTMAS PARTY



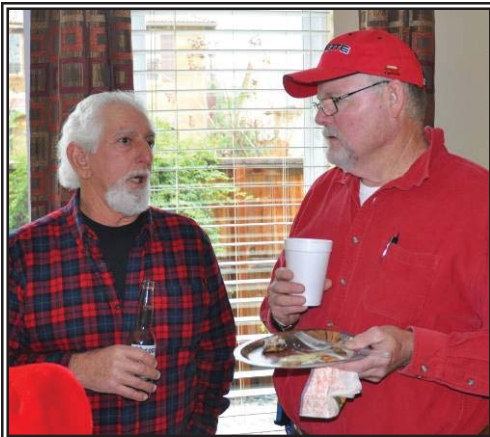


CHRISTMAS PARTY





CHRISTMAS AT THE MINNICH'S





COF CHARITIES GIVE AWAY



PEDRO SANTANA OF RONALD Mc DONALD HOUSE ACCEPTS A \$1000.00 CHECK FROM CORVETTES OF FRESNO PRESIDENT CHRIS CAMPBELL





COF CHARITIES GIVE AWAY



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GENELLE TAYLOR KUMPE OF
MARJAREE MASON CENTER ACCEPTS A \$2000.00 CHECK FROM
CORVETTES OF FRESNO PRESIDENT CHRIS CAMPBELL**



**DIRECTOR OF
INPATIENT SERVICES
CHERYL INMAN OF
HINDS HOSPICE
ACCEPTS A CHECK
FOR \$2000.00 FROM
CORVETTES OF
FRESNO PRESIDENT
CHRIS CAMPBELL**

Hinds Hospice
Honoring the Journey



Corvettes of Fresno Nethercutt Collection & NHRA Museum COMING IN APRIL 2015



The Nethercutt Collection features rare collectibles ranging from mechanical musical instruments and antique furniture to the true heart of the collection: over 250 American and European automobiles dating from 1898 to 1997.

Founder J.B. Nethercutt spent a lifetime establishing this collection of historic importance. Unique to automobile museums, each car on display is attentively serviced and maintained to remain as drivable as when the vehicle originally rolled off the showroom floor. On view are various Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance winners and cars once owned by movie stars, royalty and other notable personalities.

The entire collection is housed in two beautifully appointed exhibit facilities located just north of Los Angeles. Housed in the Museum is the Nethercutt Automotive Research Library and Archives, one of the world's top automotive research facilities. Just steps outside the Museum are a resplendently restored steam locomotive and railcar.

Opened in 1971, The Nethercutt Collection is a not-for-profit educational institution and a resource for automobile enthusiasts, historians, students and scholars.

It is open to the public at no charge.





ALLEN'S WSCC PAGE



WESTERN STATES CORVETTE COUNCIL



Celebration & Convention

July 6-12, 2015  *Reno, Nevada*

Competitive Events • Social Events • Driving Tours

—Something for Everyone—



Registration & Reservations open in November 2014 at:

wscccconvention.com



CORVETTES OF FRESNO



DUFFEL BAG



\$15.00

PICTURED BELOW IS THE DUFFEL BAG THAT WILL BE INCLUDED WITH EACH TAHOE 47 REGISTRATION

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



Corvette History & Trivia



Pre-Production Trivia...

In 1951 a group of Harley Earl's "Special Projects" crew began work on a GM sports car. Bob McLean designed a general layout for the car which was originally code named, "Opel."

- **William Durant, the founder of GM, said a wallpaper pattern he saw in a Paris hotel in 1908 inspired the bow tie logo. Supposedly, he ripped off a small piece of it and brought it back to Detroit.**
- **Myron Scott, at the time Chevrolet's Chief photographer, is credited with coming up with the Corvette name, drawing from the small, fast warships of the "Corvette" class.**
- **The Jaguar XK120 is believed to have been the inspiration for the first Corvette.**
- **The Corvette was the first and last car with a true "wrap-around" windshield.**
- **Corvette was not the first to be made with a fiberglass body, but it was the first to be built by a company the size of Chevrolet.**
- **Corvettes have been assembled in three different cities. Flint, Michigan, St. Louis, Missouri, and Bowling Green, Kentucky.**
- **While many were involved in its design and production, Belgium-born Zora Arkus-Duntov is generally considered to be the "Father" of the Corvette.**

The original front emblem and horn button on the "Autorama" show circuit Corvette featured crossed American and checkered flags. It was later discovered that using an American flag on a product trade mark was against the law and the emblem was changed shortly before the New York Motorama.

- **On Tuesday, June 30, 1953 Corvette #1 Serial Number E53F001001 rolled off the assembly line, and Corvette production began.**
- **Want the rarest Corvette? In 1953 the first two Corvettes, VIN Numbers 1 and 2 were said to have been destroyed, but no records prove that fact and there are no witnesses to the destruction. Who knows? They still might be out there somewhere.**
- **The first Corvettes were literally "rolled" off the assembly line. The early production line was not prepared for grounding to a fiberglass body and thusly the first cars would not start.**
- **The first five Corvettes to come off the assembly line did not have an outside rear view mirror.**
- **Its radical fiberglass body was the only really new component on the 1953 Corvette. Everything else was directly off the Chevrolet parts shelf. Because of this, the first Corvette was essentially a regular 1952 Chevrolet under the skin.**
- **Of the 300 (some sources argue 314) Corvettes hand built in 1953 only 183 were sold because of "average" performance at a relatively high price, \$3513. The popular Jaguar XK120 sold for \$3345; \$168 less than the Corvette.**
- **1953 Corvettes were offered in any color you wanted... as long as it was Polo White with Red interior.**
- **A heater and an AM radio were the only Regular Production Options (RPO) offered with 1953 Corvettes.**



Corvette Hall of Fame



Corvette Hall of Famer John Heinricy

If you want to know why the Corvette has always been among the world's best performance cars, you can thank folks like John Heinricy.

His love for Corvettes has been a big part of his life since he was eight years old and driving tractors on the family farm in South Dakota.

It was in those days that he started riding his bike to a nearby town to watch drag races each Sunday, and wouldn't you know, the car that caught his eye the most even then was a 1961 silver Corvette.

"I knew back then that the Corvette was the car I had to have," Heinricy recalls.



That enthusiasm enabled him to begin a career at General Motors in 1970 as an engineer at the Warren Tech Center. He eventually became assistant chief engineer for the Corvette and director of the GM Performance Division.

Heinricy says he worked "for decades behind the scenes to create the kind of finely tuned driving dynamics that allowed modern Corvettes to compete with and beat the best sports cars in the world." His first personal Corvette was a 1978 Silver Anniversary Coupe, and he's had about 15 Corvettes in his lifetime.

"For me, the driving experience in a Corvette is unlike any other," Heinricy says. "From the powerful sound of the GM V8 to the level of performance from the handling, braking, shifting, and steering – it really does it all and makes you feel in charge."

Heinricy has done more than just work behind the scenes on Corvettes. He's been known as the "Heinrocket" for nearly 30 years because of his success on the race track with fellow Corvette enthusiasts like Dick Guldstrand and Tommy Morrison.

Even now, he races Corvettes every chance he gets, noting that he has probably logged more racing miles than any other driver.

Indeed, Heinricy has won six SCCA national championships in a Corvette and also helped with the Corvette racing program that won 19 straight races from 1985 to 1987.

He's excited about the latest generation Corvette. "Over the course of my racing career, I've had the opportunity to drive many different luxury vehicles and racecars," he says, "but in my opinion the C7 Corvette can't be beat."

Such enthusiastic support of the Corvette led to Heinricy being inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Sinkhole Repairs Progressing at the National Corvette Museum

Work to repair the sinkhole damage at the National Corvette Museum remains on track as construction entered its third week in Bowling Green Monday.

The Skydome is still expected to open again in July.

First, though, workers on Monday were using two pieces of equipment to remove rocks from the sinkhole, one of which was a limestone boulder the size of a small car. They drilled metal clips into the rock to help their effort.



Katie Frassinelli, marketing and communications manager at the NCM, said officials have recently made a last-minute decision to install a 36-inch manhole to leave access into the cave even after the sinkhole is filled.

“We did have some ideas of future exhibits where you could see out into the cave and have a camera with some lights in there, maybe some car parts,” Frassinelli said. “Then guests will be able to control the camera and look inside the cave.”

A one-foot-thick layer of concrete will be poured first on the floor of the sinkhole so workers can then lay horizontal piling in an attempt to seal off all of the voids and seal the outside of the cave itself, according to Joe Schultz, project superintendent for Scott, Murphy & Daniel.

“On the top side looking down, it’s a whole lot simpler,” Schultz admitted. “You don’t realize the immensity of it.”

Interestingly enough, workers say it’s warmer now in the sinkhole than it is on the ground.

“When you get down in there you can feel the moisture and the heat. Not really the per se heat. It’s really around 55 degrees. It’s about the same in here, but you can feel the moisture coming up in there,” Schultz said.



CORVETTES OF FRESNO, inc ADVERTISING CORNER



DANNY OHANO

INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL

danny@assetcreations.com

CA Insurance License #0D20175

7409 N. Cedar Ave. Suite 102

Fresno, CA 93720

P: 559-431-6565

F: 559-431-6050

720 W. Center Ave. Suite A

Visalia, CA 93291

559-738-8684

www.assetcreationsfinancial.com 1-800-236-0134

Don Dukes Truck Repair & Service



Don Dukes: Owner

1570 Menlo

Clovis, Ca 93611

Shop: 559-297-0552

Cell: 559-908-9782

Fax: 559-297-1304

Kerry Dehmel
Owner

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2941 Larkin • Clovis, CA 93612

559-292-7274 • 292-7276 fax

rapidprint@sbcglobal.net

CLARK CONSTRUCTION



559-906-0800



clarkconstruction@aol.com

JERRY CLARK: OWNER

FOR SALE

1984 BLACK CORVETTE COUPE

FRANK PERALES

CELL 559-871-2966

coach559@pacbell.net

Joe Gonzalez
President/Owner

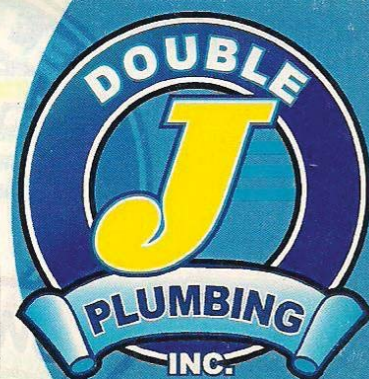
Phone (559) 226-4600

Fax (559) 226-7205

2219 N. Grantland Ave.

Fresno, Ca. 93723

Joe.papa59@yahoo.com



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Motor Trends Drives the 2015 Corvette Z06

The 2015 Corvette Z06 was introduced at the 2014 North American International Auto Show back in January which seems like a lifetime ago. But on Monday, a bevy of auto magazines finally released their long anticipated reviews of the most powerful and track capable Corvette that Chevrolet has ever produced.



One of reviewers of the new 650 horsepower super car was *Motor Trend's* Carlos Lago who filmed the experience for *MT's* Ignition webcast which appears on their YouTube channel.

Carlos opens the review with the Corvette Z06 Coupe roaring around Road Atlanta and right away you hear that beautiful exhaust note coming from the 6.2 liter supercharged engine which makes a whopping 650 hp and 650 ft-lbs of torque.

Carlos says “This thing is so fast at speed and the G-forces are such at speed that you have to remember to breathe, you have to remember to hold on, and you have to remember where you’re pointing it. It is absolutely insane!”

Motor Trend's test vehicle was a Velocity Yellow Corvette Z06 Coupe armed with the 7-speed manual and stage 2 aerodynamics. Their testing found the Corvette capable of 0-60 mph sprints in 3.2 seconds and the quarter mile at 11.3 seconds at 126.2 mph. This was a faster time but slightly slower mph than when they tested the C6 ZR1. Breaking distance from 60 to 0 mph was 91 feet which was also equal to the distance held by the previous King of the Hill.

On the skid pad, the Corvette Z06 ran *Motor Trend's* figure 8 course in 22.5 seconds – the fastest ever for a production car that wasn't the Porsche 918. BTW, the Porsche 918 was only .3 of a second faster and costs \$845,000. The Corvette Z06's 1.16 g average on the skid pad was the best lateral acceleration ever tested by *MT* that wasn't a race car.

“The car is extraordinarily fast. Just listen to that!” Carlos says as he's got the power down on Road Atlanta and we see a glimpse of the speedometer as it crosses into three digit territory. “This is absolutely amazing. I keep wanting to call it a ZR1 because it reminds me of the car in all the good ways, none of the bad ways.”

”My first impressions of this thing are pretty, pretty, pretty awesome. This thing offers a performance value with, so far, not many downsides. 650 horses, 60 pound feet, incredible performance for not a ton of money. It's kinda nuts” says Lago.

Hennessey Offers Details on Their 2015 Corvette Z06 HPE1000 Package

If you're one of the fortunate people to actually get to buy a Z06 but still aren't satisfied with its 650 horsepower and 650 ft-lb of torque, then you just might want to call Mr. Hennessey.

His company has just released preliminary details about a performance upgrade for the 2015 Z06, and it sounds like a real monster! It's called the HPE1000, and as the name indicates, it will bump your Z06's power up to a mind-blowing 1000 horsepower.

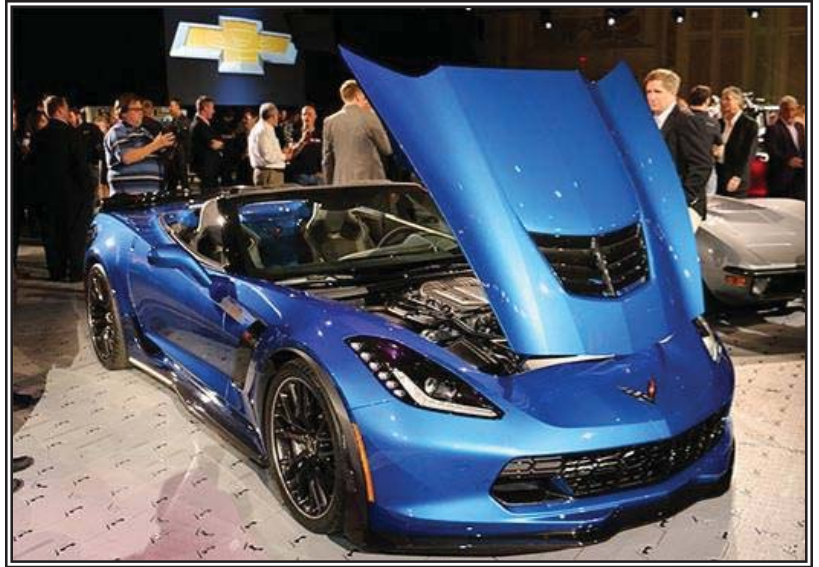
To reach that level, the HPE1000 includes a 2.9 liter supercharger system (in place of the standard system) along with forged pistons, forged steel rods, custom HPE camshaft, high flow intercooling system, ported cylinder heads, intercooler upgrade, intercooler heat exchanger upgrade, long-tube stainless steel headers, stainless steel midpipes, high flow catalytic converts, Hennessey custom hood, and all necessary gaskets and fluids.

Of course, you'll also get Hennessey's professional installation, HPE engine management calibration, and dyno tuning and road testing.

To let everyone know you've got a very special Z06, you'll likewise get a serial-numbered dash and engine plaques and Hennessey exterior badging, along with Hennessey premium floor mats.

If you're worried about reliability, you also get a one-year/12,000 mile limited warranty.

Optional upgrades include Hennessey H10 Monoblock Wheel Upgrade and Hennessey Carbon Fiber Door Sill Plates.



Corvette Stingray Named Best Performance Coupe in the Middle East

When Chevrolet launched the C7 Corvette, the American carmaker wanted the world to know how great a sports car it had built.

Apparently the world is getting the message.

For example, the 2014 Corvette Stingray has been named "Best Performance Coupe" in the Middle East Car of the Year awards.

Chevy picked up the award on Nov. 20 at the Meydan Beach Club in Dubai.



GM believes that the award should add much credibility to the new Stingray in the Middle East as the MECOTY awards integrate “a complex yet transparent nomination and scoring methodology which is developed, tested, and implemented by the most experienced ‘motoring minds’ of the industry,” according to the MECOTY website.

MECOTY says it aims to provide a platform for leading motor journalists to combine their collective experience and expertise and select the best new vehicles annually, providing car makers a credible recognition for their commitment to constantly improve existing and introduce new vehicles and innovations. MECOTY adds that its “unbiased, fair and transparent voting process” means consumers can be assured that all nominated and winning vehicles are “of the utmost quality” and have earned the seal of approval from the “most authoritative and experienced motoring geniuses in the region.”

The Best Performance Coupe category was decided based on many factors, including design, quality, handling, drivability, safety, durability, performance, capability, emotional appeal, driver satisfaction, comfort, practicality, environmental impact and regional appeal.

Bowling Green Named a Top 10 All-American City by National Geographic

The new Corvette Stingray has been racking up award after award in the past couple of years. Now the city where the seventh-generation Chevrolet sports car is assembled is finally getting some much-deserved recognition, too.

National Geographic has named Bowling Green, Ky., a Top 10 All-American City in its new book *World’s Best Cities: Celebrating 220 Great Destinations* because of the Corvette-related attractions there, including the Corvette Assembly Plant, National Corvette Museum, and NCM Motorsports Park.



“Being recognized as a Top 10 All-American City by *National Geographic* is a great honor for Bowling Green,” Vicki Fitch, executive director at the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, said. “Bowling Green’s distinction with the car brings it international acclaim and we’re grateful to the Corvette community for its impact on our city.”

But as visitors to the city can attest, Bowling Green isn’t just about Corvettes. The city boasts of a multitude of authentic American experiences, including a historic downtown square, professional minor league baseball, a family-owned amusement park, Downing Museum, and the Kentucky Museum’s Instruments of American Excellence exhibit with ordinary objects used by extraordinary Americans.

Fitch says thousands of people already visit Bowling Green every year because of their love for Corvettes, “but we will certainly be using this *National Geographic* designation in future promotional and marketing campaigns to further attract visitors to the Bowling Green area and bring an even greater economic impact on our community.”

Bowling Green joins some impressive company in the book, including Paris, Rome, New York, London and Tokyo. The book includes photo galleries, insightful text, insider tips and secrets.

The only other Kentucky city included is Louisville, cited in the Top 10 Food cities list because its Brown Hotel is home to the famous Hot Brown, an open-faced turkey sandwich on Texas toast with bacon, tomatoes and a cream sauce.

Chevrolet to Sell the 2015 Corvette Z06 in Mexico

Corvette fans who live South of the Border just got some awesome news. Chevrolet will offering the high performance 2015 Corvette Z06 for sale in Mexico at its select Chevrolet Performance Stores. The 650 hp supercar is expected to be available sometime next year.



Mexico is not a huge market for Corvettes, but Chevrolet wants it to be. During the 2014 model year, Chevrolet sold nearly 120 Corvette Stingrays in Mexico. All Stingray exports to our southern neighbor included the Z51 Performance Package and the car was offered in both Coupe and Convertible body styles.

General Motors will be offering the 2015 Corvette Z06 featuring the same 6.2L supercharged LT4 engine which has 650 horsepower and 650 lb-ft torque. Unknown is whether the Corvette Z06 will be offered as a manual only or if Mexican buyers can order the Corvette with the new 8-speed automatic transmission.

The First 2015 Corvette Z06s Are Now Being Shipped to Customers

It appears that Chevrolet is happy with the start of production of the C7 Corvette Z06 – so much so that that customer cars have started to ship to customers from the assembly plant in Bowling Green.

When the Stingray was launched last year, Chevrolet delayed the shipping as the automaker pursued an aggressive quality assessment regiment to insure everything was just right and some customer cars were held well over a month. Now, just three weeks after the start of production, the all-new Corvette Z06s are on their way to dealers and the Corvette Museum for customer delivery.



The first Corvette Z06s to be produced are all Coupes with the 7-speed manual transmission. Convertibles will be next up and then finally Coupes and Convertibles with the 8-speed automatic transmission will complete the production schedule. Like many, we are eagerly awaiting to see how well the automatic transmissions sell in the Corvette Z06, which will be a first time an auto transmission has been offered in Chevrolet's high performance sports cars.

"It has been an incredible opportunity to work on Chevy's most capable model," said Jeff Lamarche, plant manager of General Motors' Bowling Green Assembly plant, "It truly is an amazing car, and we're thrilled to get them into the hands of our eager customers."

The one final question we have is regarding the \$1,300 gas guzzler tax that it sure to hit the Corvette Z06 with manual 7-speed transmissions. FuelEconomy.gov already lists the 2015 Corvette Z06 with the 8-speed automatic transmission as being a gas guzzler but so far the data hasn't been released for the manual Z06s which are on their way to customers.

The new Z06 is the most capable Corvette that Chevrolet has ever produced, with a 0-60 mph time of only 2.95 seconds with the automatic transmission and 3.2 seconds with the 7-speed manual. In the quarter mile, the Corvette Z06 is capable of runs in just 10.95 seconds with the 8-speed automatic and 11.2 seconds with the 7-speed manual transmission.

Pricing for the 2015 Corvette Z06 Coupe starts at \$78,995 while the Convertible model will start at \$83,995. These prices include the destination fee of \$995.

Tommy Milner Takes the 2015 Corvette Z06 for a Hot Lap Around Road Atlanta

To truly experience the capabilities of the all new Corvette Z06, it helps to take a ride along with a professional race car driver. Tommy Milner, who co-drives the #4 Corvette C7.R for Corvette Racing in the TUDOR United Sports Car Championship Series is no stranger to going fast on the track at Road Atlanta and now we get to see a complete hot lap with Tommy driving the all new 2015 Corvette Z06 production car.



The hot lap was filmed with both an interior camera so we can see and hear Tommy take us turn by turn through the 2.54 mile circuit while the Corvette Z06's Performance Data Recorder showed the front facing view and includes telemetry info including speed, RPMs, gear selection, throttle and braking response, and steering wheel angle.

Tommy's hot lap Corvette Z06 was an Arctic White Coupe with an 8-Speed automatic transmission and the Z07 performance package with the Stage 3 aerodynamics.

This was a flying lap with the timer starting on the front straight at a speed of over 140 mph. Milner does a great job of navigating the twists and turns that make Road Atlanta a challenging course and his narration allows you to see how a true professional approaches each of the sections. Not only that, but the telemetry offered by the PDR tells you just how hard he is hitting the brakes at certain sections and when he has the throttle all the way down to the floor.

When it was all said and done, Tommy produced a lap time of 1:29.81 – an amazing time for a production car on the track. To put that time in perspective, Milner qualified the Corvette C7.R at Petit Le Mans back in October in 1:19.256.

At the conclusion of the hot lap, Tommy reads off the time – “29-8...There we go, baby. Under a minute thirty in a street car at Road Atlanta. That is crazy.”

Rick Hendrick Takes Delivery of His VIN 001 2015 Corvette Z06 at the Corvette Museum

Chevrolet dealer and NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick was at the National Corvette Museum on Tuesday to take delivery of two new 2015 Corvette Z06s. The two Corvette Z06s were VIN 001 and VIN 003 and not only does Rick take delivery of the first Corvette Z06, his Corvette Z06 is also the first Z06 to be delivered to a customer, courtesy of the R8C Museum Delivery Program.



Gary Cockriel from the NCM explains that Rick always picks Black for his VIN 001 Corvettes. This is the third C7 Corvette VIN 001 that he has purchased with the other two being the 2014 Corvette Stingray Coupe and the 2014 Stingray Convertible. From the looks of the Black Corvette, it comes equipped with the Z07 Performance Package.

While we are sure the Black VIN 001 Corvette Z06 is destined for Rick's personal collection, the Blade Silver Corvette Z06 wearing VIN 003 is said to be the "fun car" which will be driven.

Rick says "I've been waiting a long time for this car. It's just like Christmas for me and I love to come here. When you see the car, you see the Museum, and I get to go in the plant and hopefully drive it off the line, it just makes it complete." He adds, "I remember every single visit, I meet someone new. I meet some Corvette enthusiast, whether he's from Australia or Alabama and we all have one thing in common – we love the Corvettes."

Rick won the right to purchase VIN 001 back at the Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach auction in April by paying \$1 million dollars which was donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, Michigan. Rick will have an opportunity to complete the set when the 2015 Corvette Z06 Convertible is offered at Barrett-Jackson's Scottsdale auction in January.

Hendrick calls the Corvette Z06 "a piece of art" and then says, "I just can't believe that GM can build this kind of quality for the price and being a dealer, I'm sure glad we got the Corvette."

This Yellow Corvette Stingray was Cut in Half After a Huge Crash



Sinkhole Repairs Progressing at the National Corvette Museum

Work to repair the sinkhole damage at the National Corvette Museum remains on track as construction entered its third week in Bowling Green Monday.

The Skydome is still expected to open again in July.



First, though, workers on Monday were using two pieces of equipment to remove rocks from the sinkhole, one of which was a limestone boulder the size of a small car. They drilled metal clips into the rock to help their effort.

Katie Frassinelli, marketing and communications manager at the NCM, said officials have recently made a last-minute decision to install a 36-inch manhole to leave access into the cave even after the sinkhole is filled.

“We did have some ideas of future exhibits where you could see out into the cave and have a camera with some lights in there, maybe some car parts,” Frassinelli said. “Then guests will be able to control the camera and look inside the cave.”

A one-foot-thick layer of concrete will be poured first on the floor of the sinkhole so workers can then lay horizontal piling in an attempt to seal off all of the voids and seal the outside of the cave itself, according to Joe Schultz, project superintendent for Scott, Murphy & Daniel.

“On the top side looking down, it’s a whole lot simpler,” Schultz admitted. “You don’t realize the immensity of it.”

Interestingly enough, workers say it’s warmer now in the sinkhole than it is on the ground.

“When you get down in there you can feel the moisture and the heat. Not really the per se heat. It’s really around 55 degrees. It’s about the same in here, but you can feel the moisture coming up in there,” Schultz said.

700 Horsepower Hennessey C7 Corvette Takes on Germany's Hottest Tuner Cars at Essen Motor Show

The annual Essen Motor Show is the place where Germany's manufacturers and finest tuning specialists display their hottest and sometimes most outrageous creations in a festive atmosphere—think SEMA Show with a German accent. This year, however, an American supercar, the Hennessey C7 HPE700, elbowed its way onto the show floor amongst the sea of hyper-tuned Audis, BMWs, and 'Benzes to stake Hennessey's claim as a tuner worthy of worldwide recognition.



John Hennessey has, as his company's motto says, been "Making Cars Faster Since 1991." He has worked his magic on cars from Toyotas to Ferraris and just about everything in between, including Corvettes. The Hennessey HPE700 begins life as a Corvette C7 Stingray and then Hennessey Performance Engineering (HPE) goes to work adding:

- A 2.3-liter supercharger
- An intercooler
- Enlarged oil cooler
- New cam
- Titanium valves
- High-flow intake system
- Upgraded ECU
- Stainless steel exhaust system

When ready to take to the road, the HPE700 will have more horsepower (700 vs. 650), more torque (700 lb-ft vs. 650 lb-ft) and a larger supercharger (2.3-liter vs. 1.7-liter) than the 2015 Z06. The HPE700 will hit the 0 to 100 km/h (62 mph) mark in 3.2 seconds, performance similar to the Z06.

The HPE700 displayed at Essen included some other goodies from HPE in addition to the standard serialized plaques, HPE badging, and carbon fiber door sills. Items like black-painted HRE forged wheels, Hennessey CarbonAero front and rear spoilers, and a carbon fiber rear wing are available. One of the more impressive features comes standard—a three-year/60,000 mile warranty on the tuned powertrain. Now that's a world-class tuner!

November 2014 Corvette Sales

General Motors released their latest monthly sales report and sales of the Corvette remain very strong with 2,378 Corvettes delivered in November 2014. However, sales did dip slightly by -5.9% from November 2013's 2,527 deliveries.

For the calendar year to date (January-November 2014), GM has sold 31,287 Corvettes for a 119% gain over 2013's sales of 14,286. Remember that in 2013, the factory was shut down for half the year while it was retooled for C7 production.

For a month to month comparison of deliveries from October 2014 to November 2014, Corvette sales dropped by -19.6%. October's 2014 deliveries of 2,959 may have been higher than the actual market due to the stop sale orders issued in September regarding the airbag an emergency brake issues. November's deliveries are also likely impacted by the production of the Corvette Z06 which is now sharing space on the production line with the Corvette Stingray. Many of those first customers will see their 650-hp super cars delivered in the month of December.

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

Corvette Delivery Statistics for November 2014							
Month				Calendar Year-to-Date			
Month	2014	2013	% Change	Months	2014	2013	% Change
Nov	2,378	2,527	-5.9%	Jan-Nov	31,287	14,286	119.0%

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	2,378		31,287
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

For the month of November, GM delivered 225,818 vehicles in the United States which was the best November sales figure since 2007. At Chevrolet, the Spark, Cruze and Equinox also had their best November sales ever, Silverado had its best November since 2006 and Traverse had its best November since 2010.

In other Chevrolet news, let's give a shout out to the Chevrolet Colorado which was named Motor Trend's 2015 Truck of the Year. Dealers delivered 2,366 new mid-sized Colorado's during the month.

Top Gear's Jeremy Clarkson Picks the Corvette Stingray as his Car of the Year

Jeremy Clarkson, one of the co-hosts of the BBC's *Top Gear* auto show, has turned in his choice for the 2014 Car of the Year and it's none other than the 2014 Corvette Stingray. We've come along way from the days when America's Sports Car was nothing but a punching bag (or a literal target) for the British auto critic. The choice for the 2014 Car of the Year was announced in the magazine version of *Top Gear* in their annual awards issue which is out now.



Earlier this year, Clarkson was given a 2014 Corvette Stingray Convertible to test and while it's not surprising that Jeremy would enjoy the car, we were more than surprised when he proclaimed it "a masterpiece". In fact, words like "excellent," "tremendous," "a greatest-hits album," and "fun" were all used to describe the new Stingray in his review.

Jeremy compared the Stingray to the Lamborghini Aventador, Ferrari 458 Italia and the Jaguar F-type, saying the Corvette "looks as good as any of them. Better, in fact, from some angles. It's one of the most beautifully proportioned cars I've seen."

On the *Top Gear* website which lists the Car of the Year Awards, Jeremy says, "They've skimped on the trim to keep the costs down – Amstrad would have rejected the head-up display graphics for being too old-fashioned. In 1985. But they've gone the extra mile with the bits that matter. So we get a properly fast car that's lovely to drive, for about half what we were expecting to pay."

So what did the other hosts of *Top Gear* pick for their Car of the Year? James May picked the Ferrari LaFerrari, a limited production sports car costing more an \$1.69 million dollars while Richard Hammond's Car of the Year was the Porsche 918 which MSRP's here in the States for \$845,000.

And despite the fact that the all new Corvette Z06 has yet to make it across the pond for testing on those seemingly skinny British roads, the American super car made the list of the magazine's best cars by being named the Muscle Car of the Year. The magazine states, "Go to the outer edge of your personal comfort zone, and the Z06 will meet you there. It'll trade blows with the best that AMG, BMW, Ferrari or Porsche has to offer, on the trickiest tracks in the world. It'll make you feel like a million dollars, but costs a fraction of that. America has a new hero."

Chevrolet Prices the 2015 Corvette Stingray for Europe

Chevrolet has made no secret that it hopes to lure away some of those Porsche, BMW, and Ferrari owners living overseas with its new seventh-generation Stingray.

Now, General Motors has released the first details and images of the 2015 Corvette Stingray all dressed up in its European clothes.

If you live overseas, though, you can expect to pay considerably more than if you live in America.

GM says the 2015 Corvette Stingray will start at 74,500 euros in Germany, which translates into about \$92,400 in U.S. dollars at current exchange rates. That's up considerably from the 69,990-euro price tag for the 2014 model.

Compare that to \$54,995 if you make the same purchase in the United States.

Of course, if you're lucky enough to buy a Corvette in Europe, you'll be assured of getting the Z51 performance package, which all overseas models will include. You'll also get the same 6.2-liter V8 engine and seven-speed manual transmission available in the U.S.

You'll also get space for the wider license plates used in Europe.

The higher price in Europe is still a bargain compared to other sports cars offering similar performance.

"While the Corvette Stingray can compete with its rivals in terms of performance, it remains affordable. The Stingray is more than a car, it's a statement of intent by drivers who want the pure exhilaration that's tantamount with the name Corvette," said the president and managing director of Chevrolet and Cadillac Europe, Susan Docherty, in describing the 2014 Stingray.



Betty Skelton and the 1956 Daytona Pace Car Corvette

Here's a picture of Corvette Hall of Famer Betty Skelton and the 1956 Daytona Corvette Pace Car.

Betty was an amazing woman whose accomplishments were many. A noted pilot with altitude records and aerobatic championships in the '40s and early '50s, Betty went to work for GM's advertising agency Campbell-Ewald in 1956 where she became a spokesperson at autoshow. But don't call her a booth girl because this girl was a racer at heart.



1956 was a busy year for Betty. She would team up with Zora Arkus-Duntov and racer John Fitch to drive the 1956 Corvettes during Daytona's NASCAR Speed Week trials and she averaged 137 mph during her flying mile test despite a major headwind.

For the 1956 NASCAR race at Daytona, GM Design Chief and father of the Corvette Harley Earl designed this special 1956 Corvette pace car for Betty to drive.

Betty was nominated to the National Corvette Museum's Hall of Fame in 2001, rejoining the likes of Zora, Harley Earl and John Fitch once again. Corvettes never left her blood, having owned 10 in her lifetime and driving a Corvette convertible right up until she passed away 2011 at the age of 85. Today she is known as the "First Lady of Firsts" for her accomplishments and records in aviation and automobiles.

Consumer Reports: The Corvette Stingray is One of the Most Loved Cars

Consumer Reports isn't saying anything Corvette enthusiasts don't already know.

The new seventh-generation Stingray continues to be a winner long after owners have brought it home from the dealership.

But it's still nice to have that validation from an unbiased source.

Consumer Reports said this week that an amazing 95 percent of Corvette Stingray owners would buy one again, making it the best-loved sports car in the magazine's survey of some 350,000 owners of 300 different cars.



"When you're in that car and you hit the road, you just feel great," 2014 Stingray owner Frank Cupo told Consumer Reports. In fact, Cupo is even buying another Corvette Stingray (we wonder if it's the new Z06?) to use on the track.

We're just wondering what's wrong with that 5 percent of Stingray owners who wouldn't buy another one. Guess there's always a party pooper.

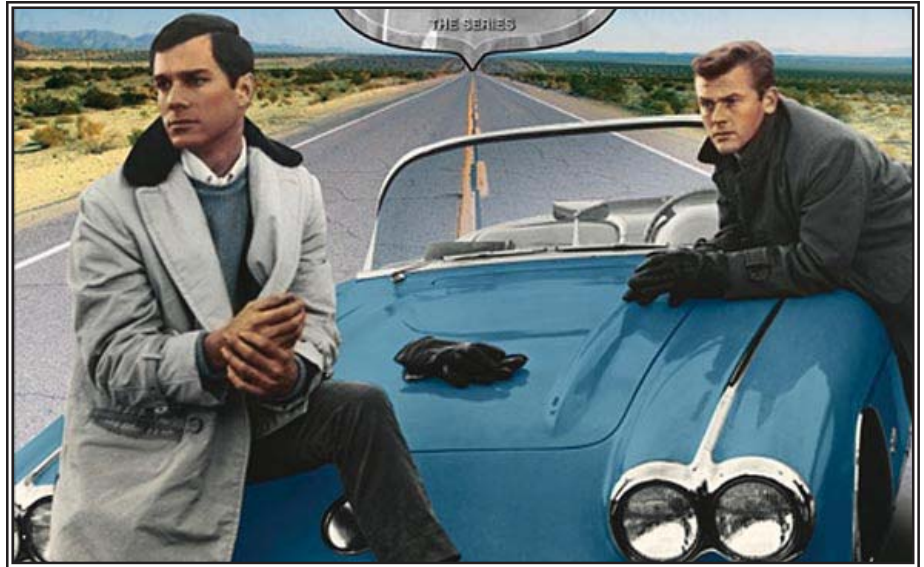
We're proud to report, though, that the Corvette came close to being the best-loved car of all, but the Tesla Model S edged out the Corvette with 98 percent of owners saying they'd buy another.

Not surprisingly, the Nissan Versa is at the bottom with only 42 percent of owners saying they'd do it again! Also lacking in the love department are the Jeep Compass (43 percent), Kia Rio (46 percent), and Nissan Pathfinder (52 percent).

Classic TV's Route 66 Planning a Modern Reboot of the Series

If you enjoy watching reruns of the popular 1960s TV classic Route 66 and have longed for a remake featuring the fabulous C7 edition of the Corvette, then you're going to love the news that EW.com is reporting.

That website says a remake of the original series that featured Martin Milner and George Maharis driving their C2 and C3 Corvettes around the country is in the works.



Apparently, Slingshot Globia

Media is developing an updated version of the show under the direction of executive producer Kirk Hallam.

We wouldn't get our hopes up to see the new show anytime soon, though, as EW goes on to say that producers are searching for a writer for the project now. That means it could be a while before you would actually be able to watch a C7 Corvette going down the road with the stars behind the wheel, traveling across America's heartland tackling problems that Americans from all walks of life face.

Since it's been about half a century since the original series aired (for 116 episodes), those struggles of everyday folks will likely have changed some, though there are still bound to be some of the same age-old problems that Americans have faced for eons.

Let's hope this is one project that gets here as fast as a 2015 Corvette Z06!

General Motors to Restore the 1992 'One Millionth' Corvette Rescued from Sinkhole

When Humpty Dumpty took his big tumble a few years back, all the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't put Humpty together again. Well, the King obviously didn't choose the right people for the job—he should have contacted the talented craft workers of the Design Fabrication Operation at General Motors' Global Design Center in Warren, Mich.

You see, in addition to their normal duties fabricating and assembling many of GM's top design study vehicles and futuristic show cars, they have undertaken a task akin to putting Humpty back together—

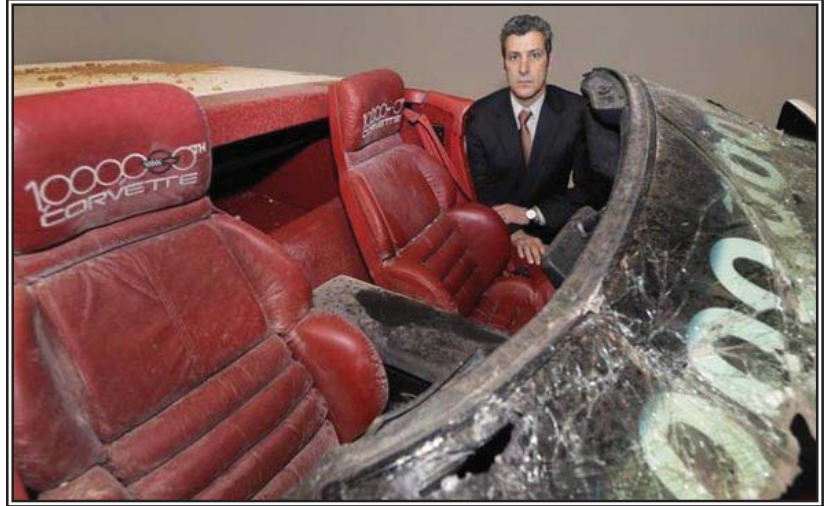


restoring to its previous glory, the 1 Millionth Corvette convertible that was heavily damaged when it was swallowed by the National Corvette Museum's sinkhole back in February.

Operation head David Bolognino estimates that 20 to 25 employees on his team from the body shop, paint shop, metal shop, molding shop and trim shop will be involved in the work, plus others from within GM and outside the company. He thinks it could take about six months, or "however long it takes to make sure it's done right." The difficulty arises in trying to preserve the authenticity of the car by repairing, rather than replacing, as many parts as possible. "The parts we have a choice on, we will always err on repairing them," he said.

The car is still covered in the dirt, gravel and cement dust as it was when it was pulled out of the 30-foot deep sinkhole. The rear suspension is heavily damaged, the right front corner of the car is smashed, the paint is chipped and scratched, and the windshield and its frame are flattened. Bolognino thinks the windshield frame will be the hardest to repair. "That's part of the structure that goes all the way down into the door pillars."

The white convertible with the red interior is the second sinkhole-damaged Corvette restored by GM, the first being the prototype 2009 ZR1, nicknamed the "Blue Devil". That car was not as severely damaged as the 1 Millionth and is currently in storage while the NCM fills in the sinkhole, a \$3.2 million project that is expected to be completed in July 2015.



Only one other car will be restored by the NCM, a black 1962 Corvette. The remaining five cars that have been deemed too damaged to be restored and will remain on display in their as-recovered state are:

- 1984 PPG pace car
- 1993 40th anniversary Corvette
- 1993 ZR-1 Spyder
- 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06
- 2009 1.5 Millionth Corvette

Let's all keep our fingers crossed that all goes well and that the 1 Millionth Corvette can make a triumphant return to the National Corvette Museum in all its glory.



2015 Corvette Z06 on the Dyno Shows 585 RWHP

Last week an Arctic White Corvette Z06 was picked up by the guys from Vengeance Racing who proceeded to do a massive burnout in the dealer's lot before taking their new super car back to their shop in Cumming, GA.

Once the Z06 was safely ensconced in the tuner's garage, it was immediately placed on the dynojet to see what its baseline horsepower and torque numbers were.

Vengeance posted the dyno numbers on the Corvette Forum and it shows the new super car putting out an amazing 585 hp at the rear wheels along with 617 lb-ft of torque. Considering a standard average drivetrain loss of 15%, that mean's the Z06 was putting out around 688 hp and 725 lb-ft at the crank!



So was Chevy sandbagging with their official numbers of 650 hp and 650 lb-ft torque? The Forum conversation descends into discussion of the dyno's make (vs a Mustang dyno) and calibration along with weather conditions and the Corvette Z06's paltry 20 miles on the odometer. I think we'll have to get a few more Z06s on the dyno in various parts of the country to know for sure.

Just for comparison's sake, we went back in time to look at the first dyno of the 2009 Corvette ZR1. The C6 ZR1's LS9 supercharged V8 made 535 hp and 508 lb-ft of torque. When corrected at 15% driveline loss, we were very close to the 638 hp advertised.

Five Things You Didn't Know About Corvette Racing

When Corvette Racing began their factory-backed effort in 1999, few if any truly expected the kind of dominating success that the racing team would come to embody. Looking back on 15 years of racing, the team has raced three different of generations of Corvettes from the C5-R to the C7.R. Along the way they earned the most all-time victories and 1-2 finishes in American Le Mans Series history including an ALMS-best 10 team championships, 10 manufacturer championships and seven class wins at the 24 hours of Le Mans.



But how well do you know Corvette Racing? This week IMSA put out these Five Things You Didn't Know About Corvette Racing and there were a few items on the list that even the most diehard fan might not be aware of.

Check out this list of notable drivers and events that have occurred over the last 15 years:

1. In the beginning – The first event for Corvette Racing was the 1999 Rolex 24 At Daytona. Ron Fellows, Chris Kneifel and John Paul Jr. were second in the GT2 class driving the No. 2 Corvette C5-R. The trio completed 600 miles and 2,136 miles.
2. Great Scotts – Two Scotts who currently compete in the TUDOR Championship were once a part of Corvette Racing's lineup in the early years. Scott Sharp drove three races in 1999 along with Andy Pilgrim and John Heinricy. Scott Pruett drove twice in 2001 with Ron Fellows and Johnny O'Connell, including the team's first victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2001. The team's 26-driver all-time roster also includes a pair of Dales – Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished on the podium for Corvette Racing at the 2001 Rolex 24.
3. From display area to victory podium – Corvette Racing pulled out all the stops en route to scoring a 1-2 finish at the 2004 24 Hours of Le Mans. The team even pressed its showcar into service, raiding the C5-R on display for parts of its bodywork and a few tie rods. Olivier Beretta, Oliver Gavin and Jan Magnussen went on to win with their "modified" Corvette.
4. Circling the globe – Corvette Racing has logged nearly 210,000 racing miles and more than 58,000 racing laps over the past 16 seasons – winning 94 races in the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship, American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón, GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series, and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. That's the equivalent of racing more than eight laps around the equator.
5. Who's the leading winner? – Oliver Gavin is the winningest driver in team history with 44 victories for Corvette Racing. Johnny O'Connell is second with 40 wins.

So there you have it. The good news is that Corvette Racing shows no signs of slowing down as the team won four straight races in the new C7.R in 2014 during the inaugural year of the TUDOR United Sports Car Championship and nearly claimed their 11th team and manufacturer titles.

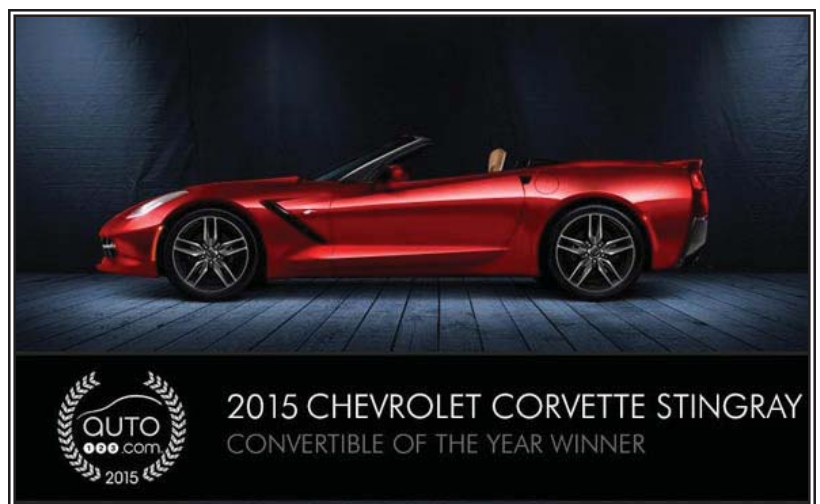
2015 Corvette Stingray Wins Auto123's Convertible of the Year Award

This time, Auto123.com has named the Corvette as its 2015 Convertible of the Year, beating out the Jaguar F-Type and the all-new 2015 Mazda Miata.

Another Chevy, the 2015 Tahoe, was judged the 2015 Full-Size Utility of the Year, ahead of the Ford Flex and GMC Yukon.

"We're honored to have two of our iconic Chevrolet nameplates recognized by the Auto123.com team," said Bob McClelland, brand director for Chevrolet in Canada.

"Both the Chevrolet Tahoe and Corvette Stingray redefine their segments, providing the world class design, performance, and technology our customers have come to expect from Chevrolet."



Auto123.com has been serving car buyers and enthusiasts since 1996 but has presented the Auto123 Awards for the past six years to winning automakers who sell their vehicles in Canada.

“These are not your run-of-the-mill awards,” Auto123.com says. “The Auto123.com Awards are the complete package. We painstakingly revise a list of suitable cars every year, classify them in one or more of 19 possible categories, and then pick our favorites. That’s right, all cars sold and available in Canada prior to the awards ceremony are eligible for a trophy.

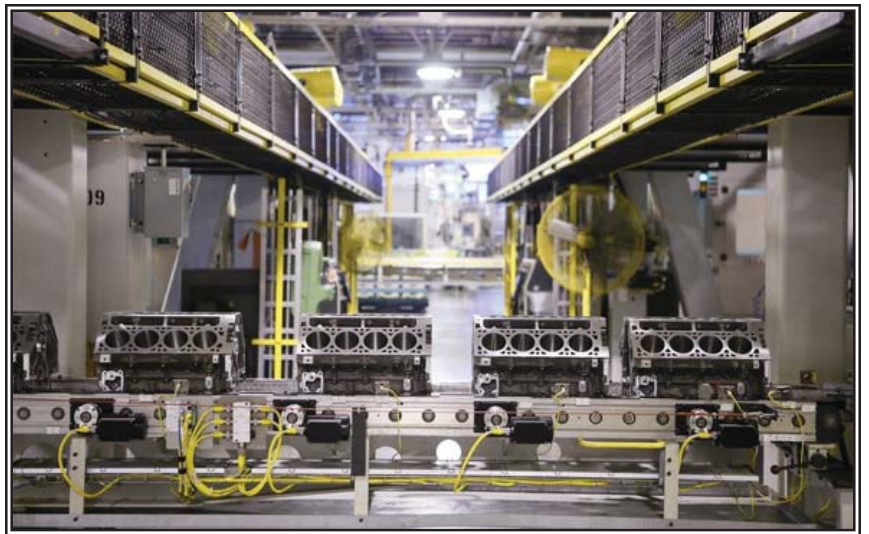
“Throughout Canada, our panel of contributors and staff members test drive cars on a regular basis, and this allows them to vote and dole out points to their favorite cars in each category. This results in naming the best of the best, regardless of whether the model is all-new or a few years old. We feel that the Auto123.com Awards are the most comprehensive, accessible, easy to understand annual ratings currently available in Canada,” the website concludes.

Other GM vehicles that were finalists in this year’s Auto123.com contest were the Chevrolet Impala for Full-Size Car of the Year, the Chevrolet Silverado for Full-Size Pickup of the Year, and the Cadillac ATS for Luxury Compact Car of the Year.

GM’s Tonawanda Engine Plant Humming with Production of New Corvette Engine

The beautiful sound of that Corvette Stingray engine humming down the highway could well be the theme song for the Tonawanda Engine Plant, where the seventh-generation Corvette’s powerplant is being manufactured.

Life hasn’t always been so rosy for the New York plant, which suffered through the auto industry downturn during the recent recession but has roared back to life with a vengeance thanks to the success of the new Stingray.



In fact, WardsAuto has just named the standard 2015 Corvette engine, which makes up to 460 horsepower, among the 10 best engines for the second year in a row.

Little wonder, since the amazing engine helps the Stingray go from zero to 60 mph in 3.8 seconds while offering great fuel efficiency.

“Anybody who’s seen and experienced the new Corvette that the new product goes into has been nothing but impressed with its execution and performance, and it works like a charm,” said Tonawanda Plant Manager Steve Finch.

General Motors chose Tonawanda in 2010 to build two new product lines – the Ecotec 2.0/2.5 liter engines and V-8 small block engine — representing \$825 million in investment.

The rejuvenated plant has grown to 1,734 employees and started manufacturing the small-block V8s in mid-November. Finch says the start-up offered some challenges to his team but nothing unusual when it comes to launching a new engine line.

Now that the upgrades to the facility are done, Finch is ready to get down to the business of making the best engines possible.

“It’s kind of the first year in a long, long time that we’re in a steady state of operational basis,” Finch said, “so we’re really looking forward to taking advantage of that, and making the operation as efficient as possible; that’s the big thing we’re looking for next year.”

Corvette Daytona Prototypes to Feature New Look in 2015

The Corvette Daytona Prototype program for the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship will have a new look in 2015 as Chevrolet has developed new Corvette DP bodywork that reflects styling cues of the C7 Corvette Stingray production car.

On-track testing begins on C7 bodywork for Corvette DPs in TUDOR Championship.



The new-look bodywork will hit the track for the first time Monday as Action Express Racing – last year’s winner of the TUDOR Championship’s Prototype title – tests at Daytona International Speedway ahead of the 2015 Rolex 24 At Daytona on Jan. 24-25. Multiple Corvette DPs also will test in the C7 bodywork during the annual pre-Rolex Roar Before the 24 from Jan. 9-11 at Daytona.

“The relationship Chevrolet’s racing programs have to our auto production lines is extremely important. That relevance of race car to showroom is a hallmark of our racing heritage,” said Mark Kent, Chevrolet Director of Racing. “The success of the Corvette Daytona Prototype program is a point of pride for Chevrolet. Having the Corvette C7 DP competing for overall victories enhances the perception of the Corvette brand and allows America’s sports car to compete for overall victories in North America’s most important endurance events.”

The frontal area sees a striking change in design from the previous generation Corvette DP, including updates to the hood surface, headlights and radiator inlet area. The rear window area also has been updated

At the rear of the car, the Corvette DP will take styling cues from the C7 including the rear taillights.

The C7 generation of Corvette DP looks to continue Chevrolet’s impressive record in North American prototype racing since 2012. The Bowtie Brand won the 2014 Prototype Engine Manufacturer championship in the inaugural TUDOR Championship. That followed two consecutive Daytona Prototype Engine Manufacturer titles in the GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series – the forerunner of the TUDOR Championship along with the American Le Mans Series. In three years since its debut, the Corvette DP has claimed 22 race victories including the Rolex 24 At Daytona 24 and Petit Le Mans in 2014.

Corvette Assembly Plant Employees Adopt 175 Angels

We've known the Corvette Assembly Plant has a bunch of angels for a long time.

After all, they share the gift of Corvettes with thousands of us enthusiasts each year.

But now the Bowling Green workers are taking it a step further as they're again taking part in the Salvation Army Angels program this holiday season.

The program works by asking community members to adopt area needy children to donate toys and clothes to make their Christmas season brighter.



This year, the Corvette plant has adopted 175 Angels, an increase of 10 percent because of the growth in employees there.

Workers also have donated \$2,000 to the Salvation Army's food bank for use after Christmas when the food pantry is usually depleted.

Corvette Plant Manager Jim Lamarche says he is glad to see the strong support from his employees, though he's not surprised.

"I am very proud of our team," he said. "I am very proud of our UAW Local 2164 members. I'm proud of our staff, not only for what they do here by getting involved with the Angel Tree program, but for what they do throughout the year. This isn't just a one-time event for us. Our employees are involved in community organizations all year long."

Corvette Stingray's LT1 V8 Chosen One of Ward's 10 Best Engines for Second Consecutive Year

General Motors has a new piece of hardware for their trophy case thanks to *WardsAuto*, who selected the C7 Corvette LT1 V8 as one of their 10 Best Engines for 2015, the second straight year that the LT1 was so honored.

To be eligible for the Ward's 10 Best Engines competition, an engine or propulsion system must be all new or significantly re-engineered and available in the U.S. market with a base price not exceeding \$60,000. Eight *WardsAuto* editors drove the vehicles in October and November in their routine daily commutes around metro Detroit scoring each engine based on power, torque, technology, observed fuel economy, and relative competitiveness, as well as noise, vibration and harshness characteristics.



The Ward's 10 Best Engines competition pits 27 of the latest engines available in the U.S. market against the returning 10 winners from the previous year. Four engines that won last year returned to the winner's circle for 2015: the Chevrolet LT1 V-8, Ford 3-cyl., Ram diesel and the Volkswagen 4-cyl.

General Motors' 6.2-liter LT1 V-8 is the heart and soul of the seventh-generation Chevrolet Corvette. The LT1 is part of the Gen 5 family, which also includes the 4.3-liter V6, 5.3-liter V8, and 6.2-liter V8 truck engine, and combines several advanced technologies – direct injection, Active Fuel Management, or cylinder deactivation, and continuously variable valve timing – to support an advanced combustion system.

Direct injection is a primary contributor to greater combustion efficiency by ensuring a more complete burn of the fuel in the air-fuel mixture. This is achieved by precisely controlling the mixture motion and fuel injection spray pattern. Direct injection also keeps the combustion chamber cooler, which allows for a higher compression ratio.

The advanced technologies in the LT1 small block contribute to making the 2015 Corvette the quickest, most powerful and most fuel-efficient standard Corvette ever. The engine delivers an SAE-certified 460 horsepower, helping propel the car from 0-60 in 3.8 seconds and a quarter mile in 12 seconds, while offering an EPA-estimated 29 mpg on the highway with an 8-speed automatic or a 7-speed manual transmission.

WardsAuto editors were impressed not only with the Corvette's performance, but also the Stingray's fuel mileage. After flogging the Corvette for over 300 miles, the editors averaged more than 20 miles per gallon with the 8-speed automatic.

As Corvette enthusiasts, we all have been given grief by pseudo engine experts about Corvette's continued use of an "antiquated" engine having only two valves per cylinder and no overhead cams. In response, we need only point to Wards 10 Best Engines for 2015 and note that the Corvette small block V8 was among the winners that included an electric motor, a supercharged V8, several turbocharged DOHC engines, and a fuel cell. By any definition, that's keeping company with some pretty advanced technology.

Fixing the Corvette Z06's ECU Power Loss: Follow the Proper Break-In Procedure

After some C7 Corvette Z06 owners complained of power loss after spirited driving in the 650 horsepower super car on highways and at the track, the general consensus (and backed by an official statement by GM) was that ECU's conservative tuning was to blame. But now there appears to be a fix for the situation and it's an easy one at that: Follow the proper break-in procedures.

We saw this a year ago when some of the tuning shops who were among the first to receive their Corvette Stingrays took them straight to the track or the dyno with just a few scant miles on the odometer. The new C7's warn drivers with a special yellow band around the tachometer that shows until the engine hits 500 miles and then the regular tach with the redline at 6500 rpms is shown.



It appears that we are now seeing a repeat with the 2015 Corvette Z06. But this time, the ECU is set up to cut power to the engine to help save it from any long term damage.

Rocko Parker from Chevrolet Performance was at the PRI racing show in Indianapolis and spoke to a *CorvetteForum* contributor about the ECU situation. He said that after 500 miles of proper engine break-in, the ECU will allow for more performance and should no longer cut power.

You can't really blame the new owners of the Corvette Z06 who want to see if the supercharged C7 is as capable as Chevrolet has been promoting over the last year, but those engine break-in procedures are there to keep that new LT4 humming long after the 500 miles have come and gone.

We assume that the break-in procedure for the 2015 Corvette Z06 closely follows that of the Corvette Stingray. In the owner's manual, GM issued recommendations for the first 200, 500 and 1500 miles. Under 500 miles, GM recommends not exceeding 4,000 rpms and avoiding full throttle starts.

So now that the ECU power loss issue in the new Corvette Z06 may be solved, we're wondering just how accurate some of those dyno pulls we've seen and if there may be even more power lurking under the hood of a properly-broken-in Z06.

Corvette Stingray's PDR Catches a Valet Driving Recklessly in a Parking Garage

One of the features of the 2015 Corvette Stingray's Performance Data Recorder is Valet Mode, a setting that records video and telemetry whenever the car is in operation. On Friday, a *Corvette Forum* member named dcowles may be the first to capture a valet entrusted with parking the Corvette behaving badly once the owner was out of sight.

The Stingray's owner used the valet service at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California. The video shows the valet driving carefully through the entrance of the parking structure and up to the second floor, and that's where things get interesting.



The PDR video captured the valet driver coming to a stop and then accelerating rapidly up to 50 mph while shifting from 1st to 5th gears before turning a corner and then parking the car. And while parking the Stingray, we see that he may have bumped the Stingray's nose against the wall because he backs up slightly and then gets out to inspect the front of the car.

The owner said he didn't see any marks on the bumper so it looks like the car is okay. The status of the valet driver is another matter as after reviewing the incident the owner called and reported the reckless valet to the Segerstrom Center.

Interestingly, the Valet Mode didn't record any audio from the event, as it was previously disclosed that recording any audio without a party's consent may violate a state's wiretap laws. The inability to record audio in Valet Mode may be the fix that GM came up to ensure that owners are operating Valet Mode within the constraints of the law.

GM's Welburn: Future Chevrolet Models to Carry Subtle Corvette Design Cues

If you like the design of the new seventh-generation Corvette Stingray that debuted in 2014, then you may very well like the changes that are apparently coming to the rest of Chevy's next generation vehicles.

That's the word from Ed Welburn, chief of General Motors global design.

The resemblance won't beat you over the head, but Welburn says subtle design elements of the Corvette will be there in the rest of Chevy's lineup.



"As Malibu and Cruze and Volt come to market, you'll be able to see a subtle link between some of the form vocabulary for all of them and Corvette," Welburn told *Automotive News* last week.

That's good news for long-time Chevy supporters like this writer, who had to drive his mom's 2007 Impala earlier this year (instead of his own 1997 Corvette) and commented several times on the way that the Impala blended seamlessly with the other boring vehicles (not all from Chevy, by the way) on the road.

Maybe Chevrolet is headed in the right direction now, though. Welburn says designers want to bring some of that Corvette excitement into the rest of the Chevy lineup, including some that will be on the market as soon as next year.

"I always look at the hood of the Corvette and the sectioning, the way it's taut, very lean, very sporty," Welburn said. "That will be a part of really everything we do for Chevrolet."

Love it or hate it, but the rear end of the Stingray featuring the hexagonal taillights will also be hinted at "in all other Chevrolets, I think in a very positive way," he said.

Chevrolet global chief Alan Batey also delivered some good news for Chevy fans in a November interview when he said, "Stunning design — that's something we really want to push."

Based on the designs of the Stingray and the Camaro, we know what Chevy is capable of. It's good to hear the carmaker's leaders using this in a positive way to influence other models.

"In the past," Welburn said, "we never really took advantage of iconic vehicles like Camaro and Corvette the way we are today."

Corvette Stingray Driver Hits a Man Parked on Interstate 71 in Ohio

A man stopped on the side of I-71 North near Deerfield Township, Ohio is fighting for his life after he and his pickup truck were struck by a white 2015 Corvette Stingray on Friday morning.

Troopers said that Shawn Steinke, 47, of Lebanon, Ohio was checking on the load in his GMC Sierra on the berm of the interstate when the Corvette driver – 49-year-old Kevin Pong of South Lebanon, Ohio – lost control of his vehicle and struck the truck and Steinke, tossing him into the road where he was run over.



Steinke suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported to Bethesda North Hospital first, then transferred to UC Medical Center.

Meanwhile, the Corvette driver was trapped in his car and, after being extricated by rescue workers, was flown to Miami Valley Hospital for treatment of serious injuries, despite having his seatbelt on.

The crash occurred about 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12 on a northbound entrance ramp from Fields Ertel Road in Warren County.

That portion of northbound I-71 remained closed for about 45 minutes while the ramp was closed for more than four hours, a spokesman for the Ohio Highway Patrol said.

The investigation into the crash continues as officials check to see if impairment or speed were to blame.

The Man Whose Donated Mallet Hammer Fell Into the Corvette Museum's Sinkhole Gets a 2015 Corvette Z06

When Kevin Helmintoller donated his 2001 Mallet Hammer Corvette Z06 to the National Corvette Museum in late 2013, never in a million years would he have believed that the car would be lost a few months later in a catastrophic accident. But on the morning of February 12th this year, the ground gave way under the Corvette Museum's SkyDome and swallowed eight Corvettes, the first being Helmintoller's donated Z06.



Helmintoller, a resident of Florida who resides about an hour north of Tampa, rushed to the scene a few days later and could only gaze down upon the hole that took his Corvette. At that time, only three of the eight Corvettes were visible. The rest laid underneath a pile of rubble and broken concrete.

Of the eight Corvettes lost in the sinkhole, none was more messed up than the 2001 Mallet Hammer. At first everyone held out hope that all eight Corvettes could be restored, but they just don't make the kind of tools that could fix the damage caused by the tons of rock that fell onto the car.

Kevin's love affair with America's sports car began early in life. Over the course of his lifetime, he has owned 10 Corvettes. This summer he was without a Corvette in garage for the first time since 1996.

"I was never without a Corvette until I donated that one, then sold another one," he told the Pasco Tribune in a recent interview. "At that point, I was without one for the first time since 1996."

Last week, the 50 year old corporate accountant was back in Bowling Green at the National Corvette Museum, but this time it was for a much happier occasion than his previous visits this year.

Kevin and his wife Linda were on hand to take delivery of a brand new 2015 Corvette Z06, a Torch Red Coupe with the Z07 Performance Package.

"The C7 series has arguably the most dramatic changes Corvette has ever made, from generation to generation," he said. "In my opinion, it's really about the first time you would say the lines or body panels are approaching a super-car appearance." Kevin added, "The car has always generally performed that way, but compared to some of the really sleek European cars, it's not that impressive, but this one really is."

"It has the most aggressive aerodynamics and has the meanest look," he said, "Production of it was completed just before Thanksgiving."

As part of the R8C Museum delivery process, Kevin and Linda took an owner's tour of the Corvette Assembly Plant located across the street from the NCM. They also took a two hour of the Museum where they saw construction workers preparing the sinkhole to be filled in with steel, concrete and fill-dirt.

So what's in the future for the Helmintollers? Kevin said he is looking forward to testing the new supercharged Corvette Z06 during an HPDE at Sebring International Raceway in the near future.





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