

FIBERGLASS FOREVER



CORVETTES OF FRESNO

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

ESTABLISHED 1963

APRIL 2016



OWNER: BILLIE TALLEY

APRIL EVENTS

APRIL 9, SATURDAY - TOWER DISTRICT CAR SHOW

APRIL 15 FRIDAY - KINGSBURG CAR SHOW DINNER RUN - HARRY BELLOW

APRIL 15-17 - GAMBLERS CLASSIC IN LAUGHLIN, NV - ALLEN TEIXEIRA

APRIL 16 SATURDAY - ASSOC OF US ARMY CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WINE AND VINTAGES EVENT IN CLOVIS

APRIL 16 SATURDAY - CASTLE AIR MUSEUM SHOW

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO APRIL TAHOE MEETING

TAHOE 48 - SEPTEMBER 8 - 11, 2016



Tahoe 48

**"THE LONGEST RUNNING ANNUAL
CORVETTE EVENT ON THE PLANET"**

September 8-11, 2016

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

(COVERED SECURE PARKING ON LEVELS 7 - 8 - 9 OF THE SELF PARKING GARAGE)

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

also released via e-mail - jimagar14@gmail.com - teixeira2k@att.net

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 CARS

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 15th 2016

How Much: \$195.00 per couple, \$125.00 singles

EARLY BIRD DRAWING

**ALL PAID REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED BY MAY 1, 2016 WILL BE ENTERED IN A
DRAWING FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100.00 CASH!**

**DUE TO CONTRACTS WITH OUR VENDORS WE CANNOT ISSUE ANY REFUNDS ON
CANCELATIONS AFTER AUGUST 15, 2016 (No Exceptions)**

Highlights

Welcome Social Thursday Night at Rum Bullions Island Bar

Shine & Show Friday Morning

Slot Tournament \$10.00pp - Friday Afternoon

Catch a Rising Star Comedy Show - Friday Night (some parts may be objectionable)

Scenic Poker Run along the shores of Lake Tahoe ending with lunch - (extra hands \$5.00)

Saturday Morning & Afternoon 100% payout for low & high hand. 1 POKER HAND INCLUDED

Awards Dinner at Silver Legacy - Saturday Night (INCLUDED)

ALL TICKETS FOR RAFFLE & 50/25/25 DRAWING TO BE PURCHASED AT EVENT

PLEASE NOTE - DRESS CODE FOR AWARDS DINNER IS SMART CASUAL

www.corvettesoffresno.com for Additional Details & Updates

All Net proceeds from Tahoe 48 will be donated to Charity

Accommodations

**Silver Legacy Hotel & Casino: (800) 687- 8733 Use the Group Code 916CORV
Room Rates: Thursday \$79.00 Friday & Saturday \$125.00 (plus tax & resort fee)**

Buffet Breakfast for 2 each Day is Included!

(must book through group code 916CORV to get included breakfast buffet)

Register now so you don't miss out on the 48th Tahoe Tour

Register by August 9, 2016 for Room Rate Guarantee



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Thursday:

REGISTRATION HOURS THURSDAY - 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(Registration will close promptly at 5:00 pm)

**TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE REGISTRATION
CALL LYNNE AGAR @ 559-593-1126 PRIOR TO 5:00 PM THURSDAY**

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

Friday:

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

10:00 am – 1:00 pm - Participant’s Choice Shine “N” Show

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

7:00am - 9:00 pm - Laugh Factory Comedy Show - Special Guest Appearance by Donnie Dukes (some parts may be objectionable)

Saturday:

8:00am – 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) 100% payout for low & high hand. 1 POKER HAND INCLUDED**

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

7:00pm – 10:00 pm - Awards Dinner and Ceremony (INCLUDED)

ALL TICKETS FOR RAFFLE & 50/25/25 DRAWING TO BE PURCHASED AT EVENT

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE \$195.00 REGISTRATION FEE?

- 1. HIGH QUALITY THERMAL PICNIC COOLER FOR EACH REGISTRATION**
- 2. BREAKFAST FOR 2 EACH MORNING AT FLAVORS BUFFET
(must book through group code 916corv)**
- 3. WELCOME SOCIAL - RUM BULLIONS ISLAND BAR**
- 4. FRIDAY SHINE & SHOW**
- 5. FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY SHOW IN THE “LAUGH FACTORY SHOWROOM”**
- 6. SATURDAY - SCENIC POKER RUN ALONG THE SHORES OF LAKE TAHOE ENDING WITH LUNCH
(lunch not included) 100% payout for low & high hand. 1 POKER HAND INCLUDED**
- 7. SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET WITH PRIME RIB ON THE CARVING STATION**

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

1968 TRIVIA

For 1968, a factory installed anti-theft alarm system was available as an option, but less than 400 cars were so equipped.

Pontiac almost beat Chevrolet to the Coke bottle design body, with their 1965 Banshee, a two seater convertible sports car that would have been hefty competition for the Corvette. GM stopped it, and then Pontiac president John DeLorean later became president of Chevrolet.

T-top does not refer to the shape of the roof, but rather it is short for Targa Top. The original design was a pure Targa but body flex demanded the center bar, discovered late in the design.

Due to policy changes at Chevrolet, Corvette was treated like all other car lines for the first time, and quality dropped drastically. With bad publicity in most magazines, policy was re-thought and Chevrolet quickly restored independence and higher quality to Corvette production within a few months. Many believe that all 1968 models still carry the stigma of having "the worst quality" of all Corvettes.

In 1968, all big block manifolds were redesigned to actually sink into the lifter valley as the hood clearance was less than in '67 and earlier models. As such, a 1965 to 1967 big block intake manifold won't fit in a 1968 or newer Corvette with a stock hood and air cleaner.

CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC 2016 OFFICERS

President: Bert Sherman
E-mail: president@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 559-439-9699

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: Gerri Ware
E-mail: treasurer@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 559-673-1065

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: newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 559-593-1234

WSCC Representative: Allen Teixeira
E-mail: representative@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 559-449-1505

Sunshine: Ruth Looney
E-mail: sunshine@corvettesoffresno.com
Phone: 559-288-2272



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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:
newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com



THE PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Hi Corvetters,

During our march meeting, it came to me that we all owe so much to our devoted board members. Their countless hours and devotion to their respective positions is awesome.

Gerri Ware, our treasurer, is right on the ball. All of our financial obligations are paid on time. (State fees, bills, post office box etc.) Gerri is very thorough in accessing everything financial in a responsible and timely manner.

Nancy Teixeira, our secretary, is also on top of it. Nancy records the minutes of both the board and regular meeting, edits them and has them posted on line the very next day. Never a misspelled word or punctuation out of place.

Clay Mumby, (membership) is a breed apart. If we need to place a name to a face, we all go to Clay. What a memory. Clay is the glad hander that greets members and guests with a warm smile, making all in attendance feel welcome. A perfect person for the position.

Chuck Feccia, V. P. (activities). His E-mail is bombarded with requests for COF participation. He contacts the requestor, analyzes the request, and reports to both the board and general membership, keeping in mind that we are a social organization, and are here to have fun. We are not here to support charitable events. (Except for Tahoe) Good job Chuck.

These four board members make my kick-back job a piece of cake. Their devotion has been inspirational in making me do a better job in my position. Thanks so much to each of you.

Spring has sprung, and we have lots of runs coming up, so check this newsletter and website for places and times and sign up. See you on the next run and the next meeting.

Thanks,

*Your humble president (?)
Bert Sherman*





CORVETTES OF FRESNO - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES March 15, 2016



Call to Order: President Bert Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Board Members present were Gerri Ware, Nancy Teixeira, Chuck Feccia., and Clay Mumby. Jim Agar was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was shared by all. President Bert Sherman welcomed all members and guests.

Secretaries Report: Minutes of the meeting February 2016 are published in the COF newsletter. A motion to waive the reading of the February 2016 minutes was made by Steve Profera and seconded by Lan Mumby, Motion carried.

Nancy Teixeira said there was a correction to the minutes for February. The name of guests Ron and Betsy Lindegren was misspelled, Lindegren is the correct spelling.

A motion to accept the corrected February 2016 minutes was made by Pat Mattos and seconded by Steve Profera, motion carried unanimously!

Treasurers Report: Gerri Ware reported the accounts activity for February, which is on file to be reviewed by members only. A Motion was made to approve the treasures report as read by Jerry Najarian and seconded by Billie Talley. Motion carried unanimously.

Membership: Clay Mumby reported we have 66 members present and 4 guests. Guests introduced were Ron and Betsy Lindegren and Mark Spomer and Janie Logoluso. Corvettes of Fresno have 135 members and 88 corvettes. March Anniversaries and Birthdays were acknowledged. The name tag drawing for March is \$30.00.

Communication: Jim Agar was absent, but Jim asked that any entries for the newsletter get to him by Friday march 18th.

Webmaster: Webmaster Chris Campbell said the Web site is up to date

WSCC: Allen Teixeira reported that the Redline is out and Tahoe 48 registration and info is inside and if anyone did not receive theirs please let him know.

Activities: 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.**

Past Events:

Feb 27 & 28 Ice Breaker Run to Monterey Steve Profera reported 25 cars attended and thanked Jerry Najarian and Bert Sherman for helping with setting up the lunch at Phil's and the Wine Tasting at Tobin James. He presented Bert Sherman with a hard luck trophy because he had to have his car towed due to a broken belt.

March 5 Sanger Blossom Days Car Show Lee Delap chair 2 cars from COF received trophies and Rob Kochevar was thanked for calling members and setting up a meeting place and time. Jim Kozera commented on how well done the event was.

March 8 Tahoe 48 meeting 7pm at Denny's Herndon and Blackstone

March 12 Bella Vista Memory Care Car Show, 12 cars showed and was a good time and they were served pizza for lunch by the home.

Up Coming Events:

March 26 Dinner run to Ducey's at Bass Lake Feccia's chairing will leave at 3:30 from Friant and Fresno, signup sheet on table

April 5 COF Board Meeting

April 9 Tower District Car Show

April 14-17 Corvettes of Bakersfield Laughlin Run Allen Teixeira chairing sign up sheet and fliers available, Allen will call those signed up with time a place to meet.

April 15 Kingsburg Car Show Dinner Run Harry Bellow chairing, will meet at 6pm Jensen & 99 please indicate if you want Tri tip or Chicken and cost is \$35.00, beer and wine are available for purchase.

April 16 Kingsburg Car Show

April 16 Assoc of US Army Central California Chapter Wine and Vintages Event in Clovis, fliers on table

April 16 Castle Air Museum Show

May 14 Invitation coming to Mystery event

May 21 Bunko Night, Tom and Teresa Ochoa \$10.00 per person bring appetizer and BYOB. Limited to 48 people, sign up sheet on table.

Angie DiLiddo reported that the **Christmas Party** has been changed to **Saturday Dec 3rd** at Pardini's and the cost is \$35.00 per person..

Tahoe 48 Allen said registrations are coming in and the details of Poker Run are being put together, the coolers have arrived and he showed the members what they look like.

He also explained to the club members what our sponsor Hedrick's Chevrolet does for the club besides donating to Tahoe, they also pay for all our postage for the newsletters and other mail outs.

Sunshine Report Ruth Looney was absent but she let Bert Sherman know she had nothing new to report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Nick DiLiddo has one COF club jacket size large for sale that belonged to a past member the cost is \$25.00

Name Tag Drawing: . The drawing is \$30.00 for March, JoAnn Najarian's name was drawn and she was present and was wearing her name tag. Next months drawing goes back to \$10.00.

50/25/25 Raffle: Frank Battaglia had the first ticket drawn for \$62.00 and the second ticket was Mokey Cowger for \$62.00.

There being no further business a motion was made by Nick DiLiddo to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ron Miller the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Nancy Teixeira
By/ net**



**NANCY TEIXEIRA
SECRETARY**

CLAY'S MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Membership

Clay reported that as of the 2016 Calendar Year COF has 135 members and 88 cars.



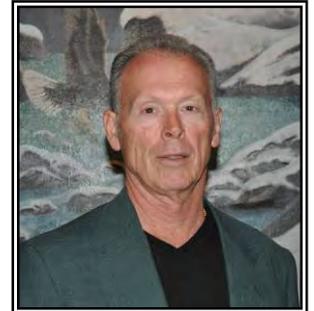
Members & Guests

Total attendance: 70 - 66 Members & 4 Guests, Ron and Betsy Lindegren and Mark Spomer and Janie Logoluso.

Nametag drawing

Jo Ann Najarian's name was drawn & She was present, winning \$30.00. The drawing will be for \$10.00 next month.

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



Club Directories and Updates

The 2016 electronic copy of the club membership directory is available online at www.corvettesoffresno.com (contact Chris Campbell for the new access info)

CLAY MUMBY
MEMBERSHIP



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



BERT & PAT SHERMAN 1 - LARRY & SHARON MINNICH 1
JIM & JOAN KOZERA 4 - LOUIS & SOCORRO BIGLIERI 5
BILL & CHRISTINE SAHADJIAN 13 - JOHN & JO JOHNSON 28



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



BILL HERRON 1 - LUCY CALDWELL 4 - VIRGINIA GIMBARTI 5
BETTY FOSTER 5 - LORI KOVACEVICH 11 - DARRICK DUERKSEN 14
- GERRI WARE 17 - JOHN ASHLEY 22 - TERRI CAVANAUGH 24

50/25/25 DRAWING WINNERS

FRANK BATTAGLIA
MOKEY COWGER

EACH WON

\$62.00



CONGRATULATIONS!

FOR SALE

1 CORVETTES OF FRESNO
JACKET - LIKE NEW
SIZE LARGE - \$25.00
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IN RECOGNITION

A BIG THANK YOU TO
DON & DEBBIE DUKES FOR
BRINGING IN 7 NEW ADVERTISERS
FOR THE ADVERTISING CORNER
OF OUR FIBERGLASS FOREVER
NEWSLETTER.
THIS RESULTED IN \$570.00
REVENUE FOR OUR CLUB.

THANK YOU
DON & DEBBIE



Sunshine Report



Ruth Looney was absent but she let Bert Sherman know she had nothing new to report.



CHUCK'S 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS PAGE



APRIL 5, 2016 TUESDAY - BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE

APRIL 9, 2016 SATURDAY - TOWER DISTRICT CAR SHOW

APRIL 15 2016 FRIDAY - KINGSBURG CAR SHOW DINNER RUN CONTACT HARRY BELLOW

APRIL 15-17, 2016 - GAMBLERS CLASSIC IN LAUGHLIN, NV - FLYER IN NEWSLETTER & WEB

APRIL 16 SATURDAY - ASSOC OF US ARMY CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WINE AND VINTAGES EVENT IN CLOVIS

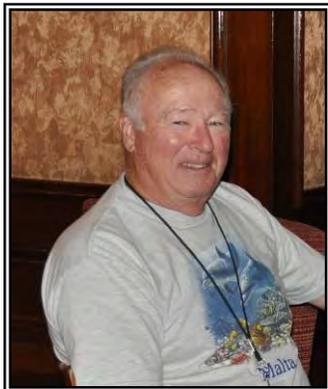
APRIL 16 SATURDAY - CASTLE AIR MUSEUM SHOW

APRIL 19, 2016 - TUESDAY - GENERAL MEETING 7:00 PM AT YOSEMITE FALLS CAFE LOCATED AT 4020 N. CEDAR IN GRANITE PARK

MAY 14 SATURDAY - INVITATION COMING TO MYSTERY EVENT

MAY 21 SATURDAY - BUNKO NIGHT, TOM AND TERESA OCHOA \$10.00 PER PERSON BRING APPETIZER AND BYOB. LIMITED TO 48 PEOPLE, SIGN UP SHEET ON TABLE.

JUNE 3-5, 2016 - MONTEREY COAST CORVETTE CRUISE - FLYER IN NEWSLETTER & WEB



CHUCK FECCIA
VP ACTIVITIES

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SATURDAY DEC 3RD AT PARDINI'S AND THE COST IS \$35.00 PER PERSON.

NO TAHOE MEETING THIS MONTH

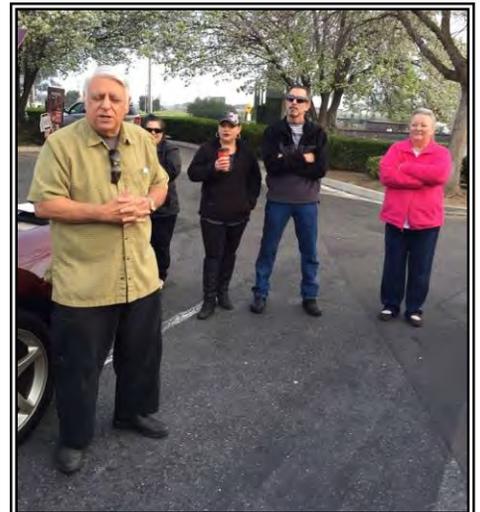
WSCC

Allen Teixeira reported that the Redline is out and Tahoe 48 registration and info is inside and if anyone did not receive theirs please let him know.

**PLAN A RUN
TAKE US TO YOUR FAVORITE PLACE
TAHOE 48 - SEPTEMBER 8 - 11, 2016**



ICE BREAKER





SANGER CAR SHOW



**JIM & JOAN KOZERA
WON BEST ENGINE**

**CLAY & LAN MUMBY
WON BEST VETTE**





BELLA VISTA CAR SHOW





BELLA VISTA CAR SHOW





COF DINNER RUN TO DIANE'S

KINGSBURG, CA.

FRIDAY APRIL 15, 2016

DRAPER STREET

MAIN STREETS OF SWEDISH VILLAGE



WE ARE HAVING A FUN DINNER AT DIANE'S IN KINGSBURG AS PART OF THE KINGSBURG CAR SHOW. WE WILL HAVE DINNER, HANG OUT, LOOK AT THE CARS AND DO SOME BROWSING IN THE SHOPS. PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

**WE WILL MEET IN THE DENNY'S PARKING LOT AT JENSEN & 99
& LEAVE PROMPTLY AT 6:00PM - DINNER WILL BE SERVED @ 6:30 PM**



**PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WANT TRI TIP OR CHICKEN AND COST IS \$35.00,
BEER AND WINE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.**



**NEED MORE INFO - CONTACT:
HARRY BELLOW 559- 761-6696**



Tower Classic Car Show

April 9, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**FREE to attend. Contact www.Hotrodsfresno.com for entry fees.
Fresno, Tower District (Olive & Wishon Avenues)**

(559) 497-8362

www.towerdistrict.org

www.hotrodsfresno.com



The Tower Classic Car Show, the largest classic car show in the Central Valley, takes place along Olive Avenue between Palm and Van Ness in the Tower District.

Over 500 cars are on display including Street Rods, Fat Fenders, T-Buckets, Roadsters, Muscle Cars, Pickups, Modifieds, and Nostalgia Rods dating from 1931 to 1972. Awards will be presented to 20 different classes of autos. The event also features dozens of vendor booths, live music, raffle prizes and lots of fun for the whole family.

The Tower Classic Car Show is a fabulous family event and a great way to spend an afternoon. Stroll up and down Olive Avenue admiring all of the classic beauties, listen to some live music, window shop at the unique Tower stores, and stop in for a bite to eat and a drink at your favorite Tower District restaurant or cafe'. It's a perfect family outing and best of all, the event is FREE!

2016 Monterey Coast Corvette Cruise

June 3, 4, and 5

Hosted by Monterey Peninsula Corvette Club

It's time to register for the 2016 Monterey Coast Corvette Cruise Event. Prepare yourselves for a fun packed weekend on California's beautiful Monterey peninsula. For those who have participated in prior years, we hope you decide to join us in 2016. For those of you presently "scoping out upcoming events", this event will be all you could hope for. Whichever category you fall into, old or new, spread the word, register, then set back and relax. This is by far one of the best events in the state.

Some of our events over-lap so you participate in those you like, skip the others, or you can send your significant other one way and you go the other. Whatever works for you works for us! We have two goals. One is to make sure our event participants have a wonderful weekend. The second goal is to raise money for The Food Bank of Monterey County, a well deserving organization in the county providing food for individuals and families in need. To date we have raised over \$20K to support their efforts, which equates to over \$140K when combined with other generous partnerships they have built. That makes this weekend a WIN-WIN for everyone!

If you have questions, call Katie Ruskell, Event Coordinator, at 831.624.9018 or email her at cypresspainting@sbcglobal.net.
During the event, an MPCC member will be available in our hospitality suite everyday to assist you.

Embassy Suites Lodging ... Single/DbI Occupancy \$179; Triple Occupancy \$199; Quad Occupancy \$219, plus taxes & \$5 per day parking

Arrangements have been made with Embassy Suites to provide rooms for our event participants at significantly reduced summer rates. Although the event is limited to the first 100 registrants, we have arranged for only 75 rooms to be set aside as some participants stay with family, friends, or at other pre-arranged lodging. If you plan on staying at Embassy Suites, book your room as soon as you receive the event group code. Rooms go fast! Reserved rooms include a mixture of single, double, triple, and quad availability with double or king beds. We continually monitor the room block to insure other groups do not infringe on rooms set aside for our event participants. Embassy Suites has graciously agreed to extend the room rates for two days before the event and two days after the event for those of you planning an extended stay. Visit Embassy Suites online to see other hotel accommodations.



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2009 Corvette Z06

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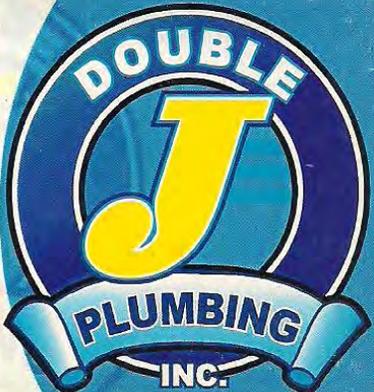
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The Mid-Engine Corvette Will Likely Be Confirmed in 2016

Look, we know what you're thinking.

But after decades of rumors, speculation, and concepts, we have it on good authority from an unnamed source that GM is poised to pull the trigger on a mid-engine Corvette.



While there's been chatter that any mid-engine supercar project could be branded a Cadillac, we don't think that idea will pass muster. Corvette godfather Zora

Arkus-Duntov long dreamed of a mid-engine version of America's Sports Car, and generations of protracted teasing seems to ensure that GM will make good, and brand the next-gen car a Corvette.

Expect GM to be selective among Chevy stores authorized to sell and service a mid-engine Corvette. The company will select dealers based on the familiar metrics of location, sales volume, relationship, quality of facilities, and customer service record. Ultimately, the production quantity will be so low that neither the Chevy badge, nor the Chevy retail experience will prevent them from selling out.

Our source says the automaker is already several years into the mid-engine Corvette project, and is nipping at the point of no return. Barring some dramatic developments, we'll see something from Chevy targeted against the Ford GT sooner rather than later. The car is likely in validation now.

Of course, GM has flirted with mid-engine Corvettes for years. But until recently it has been America's finest sports car, and the company did not feel the need to radically alter its winning front-engine, rear-drive formula.

Moreover, the company's conservative, risk-averse culture has historically resisted change—but with the arrival of the Ford GT in 2005, the Corvette unequivocally ceded its claim to being America's performance king.

Obviously, the Ford GT and Chevrolet Corvette are not direct competitors. That said, neither the old GM, nor the new GM enjoys being upstaged by its cross-town rival. And given that halo cars are rarely financial winners, there was little it could do during or immediately following the great recession.

Given the simmering anger regarding its billion-dollar bailout, even post-bankruptcy GM couldn't justify the development of a new halo car. But the company is now back in private control, its products are competitive, and the General can once again afford to allocate resources to more speculative projects. But as it stands today, Chevy's current halo car—the Z06—sits squarely in the shadow of the Blue Oval's Le Mans competitor.

And the reinvigorated GM seems unlikely to let that stand.

The Mid-Engine Corvette Plan

For motivation, look for an advanced adaptation of the Corvette's peak offerings.

GM will employ a sophisticated derivative of the LT1/LT4 engine family with gasoline direct injection and two turbochargers. It will produce in excess of 700 horsepower.

Obviously, the amidships engine location presents packaging challenges for the incumbent gear boxes. And as with any new product program, GM is working to minimize development costs on the mid-engine 'Vette, which is likely exacerbated by the excessive overruns on the C7. Internal estimates initially put that figure at \$500 million, but it eventually ballooned to \$1 billion, and its impact on transmission development is not entirely clear.

But it appears likely they will attempt to capitalize on the mechanical bits presently available, with changes focused on packaging and weight-saving opportunities, in conjunction with gearing optimization and advanced tuning solutions.

So we anticipate the new car will get a seven-speed manual because offering a standard manual transmission doesn't prevent the development of a more exotic, sector-competitive solution, and will help differentiate the car from other high-dollar exotics that have forsaken them.

While the C7 cost GM \$1 billion to develop, it has sold well, finding about 35,000 customers in each of its last two years. So the current Corvette will remain. When the mid-engine car is released, GM will split the Corvette nameplate into separate cars sold side-by-side.

Of course, engine placement is not the only factor that will differentiate the front- and mid-engine models. The mid-engine Corvette will slot well above the C7, which will continue to be offered in the \$55,000 to \$120,000 price range.

The new mid-engine model will be priced higher—much higher. Our best guess is a sticker well above the \$160,000 to \$200,000 range that Audi and Acura are asking for the R8 and NSX offerings. Expect a price point closer to the \$400,000 Ford GT and Lamborghini Aventador.

So if you have to ask how much the mid-engine 'Vette will cost, you can't afford it.

And when the C7 comes due for a complete redesign, GM will analyze the programs, and then decide if room remains for a mid-engine range-topper.

Look for an announcement to trump the new Ford GT as early as the L.A. Auto Show late this year.

CarMax Auto Salesman Killed During a Corvette Test Drive

A car salesman's worst nightmare sadly came true for a California man this week.

A 43-year-old salesman for the CarMax store in Ontario, Calif., was killed during a test drive with a potential buyer for a red C6 Corvette Tuesday afternoon.

Alex Demetro, 28, of Union City was behind the wheel during the Corvette test drive when he left the road and struck a tree, killing salesman Warren Smale who was riding shotgun with him.



Demetro was arrested on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter and driving under the influence of drugs, police said.

According to witnesses, Demetro was driving the Corvette at high speed and lost control before crashing into the tree.

KTLA TV interviewed several people who said they witnessed the crash and estimated the Corvette was going at least 70 mph on Mercedes Lane south of Councours Street, two blocks from the Carmax store. About 50 CarMax employees came to the site of the crash – littered with broken glass and debris, with deep gouges remaining in the bark of the tree – to remember Smale Tuesday night, according to reports on CBS Los Angeles.

“He was a guy at work that it didn’t matter what kind of day you were having, he was there for you,” his longtime friend and coworker Lydia Garrett told the station. “He would make you laugh. He would make you smile. This test drive is something that we do. It’s a normal thing. So when I heard it, I had to come to pay my respects because had it been me, Warren would just be right here on the scene.”

Another co-worker, Artiee Guerrero described the crash as “surreal.”

“I didn’t believe it at first,” he told CBS Los Angeles. “He was an amazing, amazing person. He was like a father to all of us. That’s why we’re all here together. We’re all family.”

Witness Paul Ramon said the crash made him realize life is very fragile. “That guy had no idea today would be his last day when he showed up to work today.”

CarMax, naturally, was upset over the death of one of its employees, calling it “an incredibly sad day for the CarMax family.”

“Our hearts and prayers go out to our associate’s family. CarMax is working closely with the authorities on the investigation,” a statement for the company read.

Storm Destroys Home but Spares the C6 Corvette in the Garage

A powerful storm system spawned about two dozen tornadoes along the Gulf Coast this week, damaging hundreds of homes in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida and killing three people and injuring dozens. One such community hit by the storm was the small town of LaPlace, La., where residents were cleaning up Wednesday after a possible tornado smashed into their town a day earlier, ripping up trees and damaging nearly 200 homes.



Carl Terry lives in the Indigo Estates subdivision, where dozens of homes were destroyed by the high winds. His home was badly damaged by the storm, but he was grateful to make it through with his family still intact.

“I’m kind of numb right now. I’m trying to put everything together. I’m safe. My wife is safe. Our kids are safe. That’s the most important thing. Let’s just get it all back together, and everything will be alright,” Terry told News with a Twist reporter Kenny Lopez of WGNO-TV.

The roof of Terry’s house was blown off, and the interior was messed up by the storm, but in the midst of all that destruction was another bright spot for Terry.

Still in his garage sitting safe and sound was his red C6 Corvette!

Corvette Museum Will Add Car Preservation to Tour Experience

Just when you think it can’t get any better at the National Corvette Museum, the folks up in Bowling Green come up with another great new idea.

We can’t wait to see the recently opened exhibit about the sinkhole, and now comes word that the NCM is remodeling an area that will focus on the care and maintenance of their classic car collection that has now climbed to 72!



Best of all, visitors like you and me will be able to watch work in progress on the classic Corvettes, and if we go on the right day and time even interact and ask questions.

The museum’s new maintenance and car preservation Area will also host seminars and training classes on car care, maintenance, and basic mechanics.

“Several years ago we started offering a ‘Powder Puff Mechanics’ class for Girl Scouts and anyone who wanted to become better educated about what’s under the hood of their car as well as how to be a better automotive consumer,” said Katie Frassinelli, Marketing and Communications Manager. “We’re excited to have the opportunity to offer classes like that on a regular basis, as well as seminars during our events and other hands-on offerings.”

Daniel Decker, whose passion since he was a kid has been working on cars, is in charge of keeping the NCM car collection up and running.

“Some of the cars that were donated did not run when we received them, so we are excited that Daniel Decker was able to bring them all back to running condition,” added Frassinelli. “Each of the cars is now on a maintenance rotation so we can stay on top of the proper upkeep of the cars.”

We love Daniel’s enthusiasm.

“When we got here, I began looking under car covers and I got excited,” he said. “I came across a ’59 that had no brakes and wouldn’t start. I got to work on that one, and it’s my favorite at the moment.” He’ll also be overseeing the repairs to the 1962 black Corvette that fell into the sinkhole in February 2014, and visitors to the museum will be able to look on.

“It’s going to be pretty awesome to work on the 1962, and it’s a real big honor to be able to do the work, to bring it back to life from the sinkhole,” said Daniel, who thinks it will take about a year to do the work. “We want to do it right. The fiberglass really needs to set and cure so it doesn’t shrink later. We want the car to look immaculate.”

You can help the museum with the construction costs of the Maintenance and Preservation Area by making a contribution to a Go Fund Me campaign that hopes to raise \$100,000. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made online at www.gofundme.com/preservecorvette.

“We’ve never really done a campaign like this before, but given the fact that we are here to preserve the history of America’s Sports Car, we really wanted to add this new aspect to the Museum experience,” said Frassinelli. “Every little bit helps reach our goal, and helping spread the word is equally important. We hope everyone will join us in making this project successful.”

We can’t wait to see this latest effort of the museum, which seems to be gathering steam with every passing day.

February 2016 Corvette Sales

GM released their corporate sales report for February 2016 this morning. Corvette sales for February totaled 2,116 cars, a decrease of -18.8% over the same time in 2015 which saw Corvette sales at 2,605 units. For the Calendar Month to Date, GM has sold 3,617 Corvettes, a decrease over 2015’s -23.6%.

Corvette sales did show a rebound following the 1,501 Corvettes sold in January 2016. The 2,116

Corvettes sold in February 2016 represents an increase of 615 cars for a 40.97% increase.



Of course the big news today is the reveal of a new Corvette model for 2017, the Corvette Grand Sport, which will start production sometime this summer. We believe that the Grand Sport will have an immediate impact on the sales of the Corvette Stingray, not only for buyers of new Corvettes but also on the secondary market.

What we will be watching in the coming months is to see if today's Grand Sport announcement will slow sales as buyers wait for the new model.

Here's the GM Sales Report for Corvettes in February 2016:

Corvette Delivery Statistics for February 2016							
Month				Calendar Year-to-Date			
Month	2016	2015	% Change	Months	2016	2015	% Change
February	2,116	2,605	-18.8%	Jan-Feb	3,617	4,732	-23.6%

Corvette Sales Monthly Archive:

Archived Monthly Corvette Delivery Statistics													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2016	1,501	2,116											3,617
2015	2,127	2,605	3,785	3,469	3,514	2,807	2,794	2,725	2,572	2,526	1,952	2,453	33,329
2014	2,261	2,438	3,480	3,514	3,328	2,723	3,060	2,679	2,467	2,959	2,378	3,552	34,839
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

GM delivered 227,825 vehicles in February with retail sales down slightly as GM has reduced daily rental deliveries. Chevrolet had its best February sales since 2007 with cars up 34%, crossovers up 5% and trucks were up 3%. The Chevrolet Malibu is red hot with an 87% increase over last February for the models best selling February since at least 1979. The new Chevrolet Camaro's sales were up 39% as well.

Chevrolet Introduces the 2017 Corvette Grand Sport

This morning at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show, Chevrolet introduced a new Corvette model that brings the historic Grand Sport name to the C7 line-up. The new 2017 Corvette Grand Sport appears to take the best of both previous C7 models, the Stingray and the Z06, and that potent combination results in a lightweight architecture with a track-honed aerodynamics package, along with Michelin Sport Cup 2 tires and a naturally aspirated LT1 V8 with 460 hp.

The 2017 Corvette Grand Sport will be built in both coupe and convertible configurations and availability of this new Corvette model will be this summer in the United States with exports to Europe beginning in the fall. Pricing will be announced later this year.

“Racing has been part of Corvette’s essence for more than 50 years and that track experience has helped us build better, more capable cars,” said Mark Reuss, executive vice president of Global Product Development and Global Purchasing and Supply Chain. “The global acclaim for the seventh-generation Corvette validates that direct link and the 2017 Grand Sport takes its track-bred technology to a new, exciting threshold.”

The new Corvette Grand Sport features the chassis tuning, upgraded cooling systems and performance technologies of the Corvette Z06 to give the new model the capabilities commensurate with its racing-derived history.

The 2017 Grand Sport offers an estimated 1.05g in cornering capabilities in its standard configuration and 1.2g’s cornering with the the Z07 performance package which includes Brembo’s carbon-ceramic brakes, Michelin Sport Cup 2 tires and a carbon fiber aerodynamics package.

“We didn’t hold back with the new Grand Sport,” said Tadge Juechter, Corvette chief engineer. “For the first time, buyers can equip the Grand Sport with a Z07 performance package – which adds carbon-ceramic brakes, Michelin Sport Cup 2 summer tires, and carbon-fiber aero package that delivers true downforce.”

Highlights for 2017 Corvette Grand Sport include:

Michelin Pilot Super Sport summer tires: 285/30ZR19 (front) and 335/25ZR20 (rear)

Specific Grand Sport wheel design: 19×10 inches (front) and 20×12 inches (rear)

Brembo brake system with (355 mm) 14-inch rotors and six-piston calipers in front and (340 mm) 13.4 inch rotors and four-piston calipers in the rear

Standard magnetic ride control, specific stabilizer bars and unique springs

Standard electronic limited-slip differential

LT1 V8 engine rated at (343 kW) 460 hp, with dry-sump oiling system and active exhaust

Seven-speed manual transmission with active rev match and available eight-speed paddle-shift automatic with specific performance calibration

Available Z07 package adds carbon ceramic-matrix brakes and Michelin Pilot Sport 2 Cup tires.

The Corvette Grand Sport Models also feature specific front fender inserts, a Z06 style front grille and wider rear fenders. The Grand Sport will be offered with all the Stingray's exterior and interior colors and a Heritage Package will be offered which includes the hash mark fender graphics in six different colors with the hash mark detail carried into the interior with matching aluminum trim.

“The choices are almost endless,” said Harlan Charles, Corvette product marketing manager. “The packages take personalization to an unprecedented level, enabling customers to create their own Corvette Grand Sport statement like no other.”

General Motors will also be offering a specific 2017 Corvette Grand Sport Collector's Edition featuring a new exclusive Watkins Glen Gray Metallic exterior with Tension Blue hash mark graphics, satin black full-length stripes, black wheels and a unique Tension Blue full leather and suede-wrapped interior.

Tension Blue is a color historically associated with the original Corvette Grand Sports of the 1960s. For the 2017 Grand Sport Collector's Edition, there is a three-dimensional representation of an original Grand Sport race car embossed in the headrests, along with a dash plaque featuring the unique build sequence number.

The Collector's Edition will start production in the 2017 production year and will be offered in both the United States and Europe.



Chevrolet's 2017 Corvette Grand Sport's Website Points to Future Offerings

In what was probably the most understated launch of a new Corvette model in our 10 years here, Chevrolet officially revealed the new 2017 Corvette Grand Sport at the Geneva Motor Show. Why Chevrolet choose to be so low key about the launch of this car is anyone's guess, but we were willing to wake up at 4:30 am ET to catch the reveal via social media and this is what we've learned.



Corvette enthusiasts will know that this is the fourth time since 1963 that Chevrolet has built a Grand Sport model.

There were only five Grand Sports built in 1963 as racing prototypes and when Corvette's Chief Engineer Zora Arkus-Duntov was busted for going against the corporate racing ban, he made sure the cars went out the back door and got in the hands of the top Corvette racing teams and drivers at the time. These cars went on to dominate America's race tracks for the next few years and were commonly known as the Cobra Killers. Today, these five Grand Sports are considered to be among the most valuable Corvettes on the planet.

Chevrolet next brought the Grand Sport name back for one year only in 1996 as a special edition to mark the end of the C4 generation. Offered with a special one-year-only LT4 V8 engine with 330 horsepower, Chevrolet built 1,000 of the cars and it was the first time that the now famous livery of Blue with White stripes and hash marks on the fender appeared on the Corvette.

The C6 Grand Sports were very common during their 2010-2013 model run and the car would eventually gain over a 50% market share out of the six different Corvette models offered at the time. Starting in 2010, the Grand Sport received the great widebody look of the fixed roof Z06 Corvette, but unlike its big brother, it was offered both as a coupe and convertible model on the standard Corvette's chassis. The popularity of the Grand Sport Corvette during the C6 generation is why Chevrolet today is offering the C7 Corvette Z06 as a convertible and coupe body as well as choice of transmissions.

Now that you are up to speed on your Corvette Grand Sport history, it's time for a closer look at the 2017 Corvette Grand Sport.

Thankfully, Chevrolet has offered more information to support the new model on its website at Chevrolet.com.

When we pulled up Chevrolet's Grand Sport website, the first thing we see is what looks to be the return of Admiral Blue exteriors for 2017. The Admiral Blue (we'll just call it that until we get the official race-

track based name) looks fantastic and it's paired with a white stinger stripe, a white air extractor grill on the hood, and a white stripe on the roof and rear hatch. With the addition of the red hash marks, we have what is essentially a modern 20th anniversary tribute to the 1996's Grand Sport model.

The C7 Grand Sport will be offered with a choice of transmissions as well as your choice of a coupe or convertible body style. The wheels are lightweight 19-inch fronts and 20 inch rears and we hear they will be available in several different finishes. So most likely, you'll be able to choose from Black, Chrome or Silver aluminum. Those wheels will be wearing the super wide Michelin Pilot Super Sport Cup 2 summer tires.

The Grand Sport's suspension includes Magnetic Selective Ride Control as standard equipment. The Electronic Limited-Slip Differential (also standard) will improve stability and responsiveness, which improves steering feel, handling and traction. As we mentioned in the launch post, the Grand Sport will be capable of 1.05 lateral g's in its standard configuration and an incredible 1.2 lateral g's with the Z07 Performance Package.

Brembo is tasked with stopping the Grand Sport and two levels of brakes are offered. The standard Brembo's are 14.6"/14.4" two-piece steel rotors while the Z07 Performance Package brings the extra large (15.5"/15.3") Brembo carbon ceramic rotors which can stop the Z06 in an incredible 60 mph-0 braking distance in only 99.7 feet.

The Grand Sport does benefit from the Z06's advanced cooling features including the unique mesh grille with front brake cooling intakes and the hood vent which helps to keep the engine cool. The Grand Sport body has front and rear brake cooling ducts and the airblades over the rear fender air ducts will keep the differential and transmission cool.

So far as we know, the standard Corvette Grand Sport will be offered in all the Stingray's colors. Since four colors for Corvette were retired in 2016, that means as of right now, at least six colors will return for 2017: Black, Torch Red, Corvette Racing Yellow, Arctic White, Blade Silver and Long Beach Red.

With the example shown on the website, I think its safe to say that Admiral Blue will also be a new color option for 2017 as well as the Corvette Grand Sport Collector's Edition which will be offered exclusively as the new Watkins Glen Gray Metallic.

Speaking of the Grand Sport Collector's Edition, that will be a limited edition model which we assume will only be offered in the 2017 model year.

I am sure there will be many more questions about the Grand Sport Corvette and most likely we'll have to wait for the National Corvette Museum's Bash Event in late April when we meet with GM's Corvette team as they roll out additional information on the 2017s Corvettes. But if you do have a question or comments, please let us know. Perhaps its something that a lot of you will want to know and we'll see if we can get them answered for you.

In the meantime, start thinking about which track you would want to play on first with the new 2017 Corvette Grand Sport.

CorvetteBlogger Prices the New 2017 Corvette Grand Sport at \$69,795

As soon as we finished posting yesterday's introduction of the 2017 Corvette Grand Sport from the Geneva Motor Show, our attention turned to the business side as where we think this model will fall into the current C7 Corvette lineup. The Corvette Grand Sport will fall



between the Corvette Stingray Z51 and the Corvette Z06 and therefore we believe the MSRP for the new Corvette will start at \$69,795 (and yes, that includes the \$995 destination fee).

So how did we get to that number? First we pulled historical pricing from the C6 generation and calculated the differences in pricing between the Corvette Coupe, the Grand Sport Coupe and the Z06.

Model	2010	2011	2012	2013	2016
Coupe	\$49,880	\$48,950	\$49,525	\$49,600	\$60,400
GS Coupe	\$55,720	\$54,790	\$55,925	\$56,000	N/A
Z06	\$75,235	\$74,305	\$75,525	\$75,600	\$79,400

The differences between pricing in the C6 generation was pretty consistent over those four years. In 2010-2011, the pricing between the base Corvette Coupe and the Grand Sport was \$5,840 and that climbed to \$6,400 in 2012-2013 model years.

The Z06 prices compared to the Grand Sport prices were consistent as well. In 2010-2011, that difference was \$19,515 and in 2012-2013 it climbed slightly to \$19,600.

Now, here is where we have to make some assumptions. We believe the Corvette Grand Sport in 2017 will inherit much of the Z51 Stingray's chassis and base options. These would have come at an additional price on the C6 base Coupes. We also know that the Grand Sport will be making several options standard including Magnetic Ride Control and the Electronic Limited Slip Differential (eSLD).

Like the Z06, the Corvette Grand Sport will have different levels of aerodynamics with a base configurations and the Z07 Performance Package. Looking at the car that unveiled yesterday in Geneva, that's the up-level Collectors Edition with the Z07's carbon fiber rockers and splitter. Looking at Chevrolet's Corvette Grand Sport website which shows the Admiral Blue Grand Sport, those look to be painted rockers, the front splitter has no winglets whatsoever and on the rear is a the standard body-color spoiler.

So if we take the \$60,400 base price for the Z51 Stingray, figure the historical difference between the base coupe and Grand Sport Coupe, and then add Magnetic Ride and eSLP, as well as a base aero package, that will add up to about \$8,400 which gets us to the base MSRP price of \$68,800. Adding the mandatory \$995 destination fee, our estimated price for the base 2017 Corvette Grand Sport comes in at \$69,795. We've also been talking to a few peeps about this and we think the base 1LZ 2017 Corvette Z06 pricing will go up now that the Big Nasty's Angry Little Brother will be available. Current 2016 MSRP for the Corvette Z06 is \$79,400. I wouldn't be surprised to see it go up to around \$83K or so and watch for Chevy to add some content to the Z06 to justify the price increase. For example, the base aerodynamics package might include rocker panels as standard equipment.

Finally, this estimate is based on 2016 prices we haven't figured in any kind of price increases for the existing models. As Chevrolet has raised the base MSRP every year since the C7's arrival in 2014, we have to think another increase is coming for 2017. After all, \$435 million paint shops for assembly plants don't grow on trees.

Only 1,000 Corvette Grand Sport Collector Edition Models Will Be Offered

When Chevrolet took the stage earlier this week at the Geneva Motor Show to introduce the newest Corvette in the C7 line up, the 2017 Corvette Grand Sport, they used the occasion to premiere the limited Collector Edition version of the car to make its first public appearance.



Like the Grand Sport moniker, "Collector Edition" versions of Corvettes have graced showroom

floors previously in Corvette's long history. Interestingly, Chevy has presented Collector Editions in both 1982 and 1996, the final years of C3 and C4 production as a way to send off the car before introducing a new generation of Corvettes.

While we don't think that is the case for the 2017 Grand Sport, offering a Collector Edition is great way to promote the new model as well as offer a limited edition specialty car within the model year's first production cycle.

So what does the newest 2017 Corvette Grand Sport Collector Edition offer to buyers?

Like the standard GS Coupes and Convertibles on the way, the 2017 Corvette Grand Sport Collector Edition will offer the widebody configuraton with the Z06's rear fender flares, grille and upgraded suspension along with the naturally aspirated 460-hp LT1.

The car will come standard in Watkins Glen Gray Metallic which will be the exclusive color of the Collector Edition model. It features the Tension Blue hash mark graphics on both front fenders as well as satin black full-length stripes and black aluminum wheels. Inside, the cockpit wraps the driver around the Tension Blue interior. Representations of the 1963 Corvette Grand Sport are embroidered on the seat headrests.

I had some reservations at first about the Tension blue color but after a few days now I will admit that it has really grown on me.

The Collector's Edition Grand Sport shown at Geneva was outfitted with the Z07 Performance Package. It's our belief that buyers of the Collector's Edition will be able to order the car with either the standard Grand Sport suspension or with the Z07 option.

Like all recent special editions, we believe the car will feature its own VIN. That build sequence number will be displayed inside on a specially designed dash plaque which features a representation of the #002 1963 Grand Sport roadster campaigned most famously by George Wintersteen.

The plaque on the Corvette Grand Sport Collector's Edition in Geneva reads 0001/1000 which leads us to believe that there will only be 1,000 Collector's Edition Corvette Grand Sports offered next year. We figure the majority of those cars will be made for the US while a portion will be exported to Canada and Europe.

More details about the Corvette Grand Sport and the special Collector Edition will come next month at the National Corvette Museum's Bash event. The 2017 Corvette Order Guide will follow and pricing will probably be known in late May or early June. As the first order cycle for the 2017 models will happen in mid-May, we suggest getting with your preferred Chevrolet dealer today and get on a list now.

Harlan Charles Confirms the Return of Admiral Blue on 2017 Corvettes

Great news for those Corvette enthusiasts who have the blues after it was announced earlier this year that Laguna Blue would be phased out of the Corvette exterior color palate in 2016. Blue is one of those colors that tends to wind up with in the middle of popular colors, so we didn't doubt for a moment that there would be a new Blue exterior for 2017 Corvettes back in the line-up.



But then the Corvette Team had a drop the mic moment when they debuted the new 2017 Corvette Grand Sport at Geneva early Tuesday morning. That reveal was followed up with the publishing of a special 2017 Grand Sport Corvette page on Chevrolet.com and that's where we come into the mix.

Our follow up post on Tuesday featured images pulled from Chevrolet's website of a Blue 2017 Corvette Grand Sport. Right away, we referred to the color as Admiral Blue as it only makes sense that the color would be offered 21 years after it first made its debut on the one-year-only 1996 Corvette Grand Sport. In fact, the C7 Corvette Grand Sport on that website wears a nearly identical paint scheme to that of the 1996 GS, down to the white stripe on the hood and red hash marks on each fender.

So of course we referred to the color as Admiral Blue and decided to stay with that name until we learned what the real name would be.

The current paint shop in Bowling Green has the capacity for ten exterior colors for Corvette production. Earlier this year, Chevrolet decided to build-out four of the ten colors offered on the Corvette, meaning once they finished with what they had, they would not be painting those colors anymore. Those four colors retired were Night Race Blue, Laguna Blue, Shark Gray and Inferno Orange.

So now we have two new colors confirmed for 2017, Admiral Blue and Watkins Glen Gray Metallic, leaving two more to be confirmed if Chevy stays with that formula. As Chevrolet is offering the Watkins Glen Gray only on the 2017 Corvette Grand Sport Collector's Edition, it would not surprise us if they also offered an exclusive color to the Z06 model as well.

NCM Motorsports Park Submits New Noise Plan to Bowling Green's Planning Commission

Lawyers are getting ready to rev up their engines again as the noise dispute over the National Corvette Museum's Motorsports Park in Bowling Green continues later this month.



Neighbors of the park have been complaining for more than a year about the increased noise levels, and in response, the NCM has submitted a revised detailed development plan that is

supposed to be considered by the City-County Planning Commission of Warren County on March 17.

Meanwhile, supporters of the Motorsports Park are finally climbing into the driver's seat and making some noise of their own.

Laura Gilbert of Bowling Green told the Bowling Green Daily News on Friday that she is helping with an online petition drive by supporters of the park.

“We feel like the museum and the track are a huge part of this community and its economy,” Gilbert said. “The folks at NCM have lent a hand and we started the petition. It’s really important people understand what the NCM means for Bowling Green. We have a lot of support here in Bowling Green but, honestly, a lot from the folks all over. These are people who love coming here and spend money here.”

You can see the petition at supportncm.com, where people are being asked to attend the meeting on March 17.

“There are citizens and groups who very much support the NCM Motorsports Park,” said Charles “Buzz” English Jr., a Bowling Green attorney who represents the NCM. “It is a very important aspect to our community. We want to be a good neighbor.”

In the new plan, the NCM offers to build new structures designed to lower the noise level for the nearby Clark Circle residents, according to English. Included is a 12-foot wall on top of the existing 1,620-foot berm which already averages 14 feet in height. Noise abatement walls would also be added in critical areas near the edge of the track.

Under the old plan, the NCM had to make sure the park does not cause a “substantial noise” increase, an elusive number that has yet to be defined.

Bowling Green attorney Chris Davenport, who represents about 50 Clark Circle residents in the civil action, is worried that the new structures won’t solve the noise problem.

The NCM says it wants to keep the maximum decibel level at 103 for vehicles at the park. Any vehicle louder than that would be black-flagged and have to leave the track. However, in the revised standards filed last month, the Museum declined to put that number in writing.

Davenport is worried that even with a 103 decibel level, the residents would still be bothered. He claims that noise perceived by a person is twice what the actual level is, therefore making a 10-decibel increase sound like 20 decibels to the residents.

The Museum also faces more legal issues, including its appeal of a fine levied against the park last year by the Warren County Code Enforcement Board that will be heard before Warren District Judge John Brown on March 28.

Then on Nov. 1, a civil trial will begin before Warren Circuit Judge John Grise to decide if the Clark Circle residents should receive monetary damages from the track noise.

New Federal Law Allows Turn-Key Renditions of Classic Cars

Classic Corvettes like the original Grand Sports are amazing automobiles, but half a century of technological progress has definitely left them lacking in some ways.

But what if you could buy a brand new Grand Sport that looks like the 1963 model but has the modern suspension, steering, and powertrain of the modern era for much less than the original five classics would set you back some 53 years later?



Well, recently passed federal legislation has made it possible for low-volume motor vehicle manufacturers to offer new, turn-key renditions of classic cars within certain guidelines.

Superformance LLC is one such specialty car builder and they showed off several such cars during the most recent Barrett-Jackson collector car auction in Scottsdale, Arizona, including a new Corvette Grand Sport that is licensed by GM. That car had a 427 Chevy V8 under the hood that had been revved up to 600 horsepower by Lingenfelter Performance Engineering.

But customers can choose from a wide variety of powerplants for their own dream car, all the way up to 800 horsepower.

“It’s dependent on what the buyer of the car really wants,” said Ken Lingenfelter, owner of Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, who noted that everything from old-school carburetors to the most modern fuel injection and supercharger systems are available.

He says the new Grand Sports can be customized according to the owner’s planned uses, whether on the track, for show, or as a daily driver – with modern options like air conditioning and power windows. “That’s one of the really cool things about the project,” he said. “The car is built for all of that.”

Interestingly, the cars are assembled in South Africa minus engines and transmissions, which allows Superformance to custom-tune each vehicle according to the person buying it.

The ProCharger i-1 is the World's First Programmable Supercharger

The folks at ProCharger have become the first in the industry to offer programmable ratio transmission design, long considered the “Holy Grail” of supercharging.

A lot of companies have talked about it and tried to come up with it, but ProCharger says it's the first to perfect such a system and bring it to market.

Best of all, now the company is offering the new supercharger system for C7 Corvettes.



What the new system means is that drivers can program the boost level they want to reach, while also programming the boost “curve” itself to help tremendously in traction limited situations.

“This latest addition to the ProCharger line produces not only the largest power gains but also the ultimate performance curve with an intelligent control system and an optional touch screen display,” says Ken Jones, ProCharger CEO.

Drivers can switch between three factory-supplied performance modes as well as a custom mode. It wasn't easy coming up with the new system, company officials say.

Known as the i-1 system, it took four years of an intensive research and development process to go from original design to testing.

“Several of the technologies that are present in the i-1 are not only new to ProCharger as a company but new to the entire industry,” says Cliff Hall, automotive engineering manager. “So we had to assemble the right team to make it happen, but I can't emphasize how much of a team approach it's been to get here and bring this revolutionary product to market.”

The company has produced a video explaining the new system and all the hard work it took to produce it. The end result is a much more efficient supercharger, the company says, that produces cooler supercharger temperatures that mean drivers will see more power for the same boost level for the same stress on the engine.

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