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FOREVER**



# CORVETTES OF FRESNO

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**SEPTEMBER 2015**



**OWNER: FRANK & DORIT BATTAGLIA**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER 11, 2015 - WEDNESDAY - VETERANS DAY PARADE - BILLIE TALLEY 559-960-4666

DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TORNINOS - SHARON MINNICH 559-449-3331

# TAHOE 47 - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2015

# 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**

## 1961 TRIVIA



The 1961 Corvette was the last year to feature "wide whitewall" tires.

The 1961 Corvette dropped the "round" nose emblem of previous years in favor of the word "CORVETTE" spelled out as individual letters.

The trademark chrome grill teeth disappeared forever in 1961, to be replaced by a fine mesh screen in the radiator opening.

## CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC 2015 OFFICERS

**President:** Chris Campbell  
**E-mail:** [president@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:president@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559- 289-8054

**Vice Pres.:** Chuck Feccia  
**E-mail:** [events@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:events@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559-432-4228

**Secretary:** Nancy Teixeira  
**E-mail:** [secretary@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:secretary@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559-449-1505

**Treasurer:** Kaye Campbell  
**E-mail:** [treasurer@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:treasurer@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559-681-1510

**Membership:** Clay Mumby  
**E-mail:** [membership@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:membership@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 503-507-3059

**Webmaster:** Chris Campbell  
**E-mail:** [webmaster@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:webmaster@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559-289-8054

**Newsletter:** Jim Agar  
**E-mail:** [newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559-593-1234

**WSCC Representative:** Allen Teixeira  
**E-mail:** [representative@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:representative@corvettesoffresno.com)  
**Phone:** 559-449-1505



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**FIBERGLASS FOREVER IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION.**

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

[newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com](mailto:newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com)



# THE PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



**Hello Everyone,**

**Busy month coming up, Tahoe 47 is days away and we are getting close to the 100 count for attendance. A special thanks to all who have contributed their time, money and donations to make this a very special Tahoe Event. It would not be possible without the hard work of the Tahoe Committee to steer this event in the right direction, excellent job everyone!**

**It's also election time again, we have 3 positions open, Board positions of President and Treasurer along with the appointed position of Sunshine Person. This is your time to step up and make a major contribution to the club by running for one of the Board positions or volunteering for the Sunshine Person position. You will receive a lot of support from everyone in the club, these are not positions where you are left alone to struggle, it's a team effort and you get lots of help. The 3 people remaining on the Board have experience under their belt and will be an asset to the incoming President and Treasurer, they will make your life much easier, compared to starting on a Board with all new people in those positions.**

**Keep planning those runs and dinners, it's a good time when we get together and enjoy our cars and each other.**

**Well, that's all for now!**

**Stay Safe and Save the Wave, see you at Tahoe 47!**

**Chris Campbell**





## CORVETTES OF FRESNO - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES August 18, 2015



**Call to Order:** President Chris Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Board Members present were Kaye Campbell, Nancy Teixeira, and Chuck Feccia. Clay Mumby and Jim Agar were absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was shared by all. President Chris Campbell welcomed all members and guests.

**Secretaries Report:** Minutes of the meeting July 2015 are published in the COF newsletter. A motion to waive the reading of the July 2015 minutes was made by Steve Moe and seconded by Jerry Najarian Motion carried.

A motion to accept the July 2015 minutes as published in the Fiberglass Forever newsletter was made by Jackey Christani and seconded by Carol Trauger, motion carried unanimously!

**Treasurers Report:** Kaye Campbell reported the accounts activity for July, which is on file to be reviewed by members only. A Motion was made to approve the treasures report as read. The Motion was made by Larry Minnich and seconded by Ron Mattos, Motion Carried Unanimously. Kaye also wanted to thank our club members for being so generous in their donations for Tahoe 47.

**Membership:** Chris Campbell and Chuck Feccia reported for Clay Mumby who was absent, The August 18, 2015 meeting has 73 members and 5 guests present.. Corvettes of Fresno, has 139 members and 89 corvettes. Guests introduced were Cher and Bill Elys, Jack and Margie Back, and Inez Rocha. All August Birthdays and Anniversaries were acknowledged. The amount of the name tag drawing for the month of August is \$70.00, Rolando Martinez name was drawn but he was not present so the drawing for September will be \$80.00. Remember to always sign in at the beginning of all meetings!

**Communication:** Jim Agar was absent, but Allen Teixeira talked to him and the deadline for the newsletter is Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Webmaster:** Webmaster Chris Campbell reported that he has pictures still to post from past runs and will try to get them up soon.

**Activities:** Chuck Feccia gave the report, please refer to the Calendar of events in the club newsletter, or on the club web site, [www.corvettesoffresno.com](http://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:**

**July 25** Mystery run and dinner chaired by Chuck and Celia Feccia, well attended had dinner at Seven after a run around Pine Flat. Jerry Najarian won \$120.00 by guessing the closest mileage of the run. Feccia's were commended for a good job.

**August 7** Rods on the Bluff 6 to 9pm

**August 8** Meet and Eat was at Farnesi's in Madera was attended by 36 and hosted by the Minnich's.

**August 8** Hot August Nites in North Fork

**August 11** Last Tahoe 47 Meeting

## Upcoming Events:

**August 22** Hot Wasuma Nites Car Show Awhanee

**Sept 10 -13 Tahoe 47** Allen reported we have 89 registrations and there are sign up sheets if you are planning to leave on Wednesday Sept 9 at 7:30 am from 99 and Herndon, or Thursday Sept 10, time will be posted later for those leaving on Thursday. Teixeira's and Kozera's will be going to Reno on August 24<sup>th</sup> and taking most of the supplies up so if you have anything you want them to take please get it to them before Monday. Larry asked that if possible it would help if any of our members could please pay your waiter at La Strada's after you order your meal and drinks to help speed up the process of getting everyone out after dinner. Allen wanted to thank everyone for their donations and help and if your name doesn't get in the newsletter please don't be upset, but we had to get it printed so you may not have met the cut off day, so we apologize in advance.

**Sept 12** Car shows in Oakhurst and Coalinga, flyers on table

Please let Chuck Feccia know if you are interested in chairing a run.

**WSCC** Allen Teixeira announced that the Redline should be out soon and if you don't receive one let Allen know. The Quarterly meeting will be Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> in Rancho Cordova..

**Sunshine Report** given by Sharon Minnich, JoAnn Najarian broke her arm and had surgery Kelly Ashley had surgery also on July 27, both were at the meeting and doing well, cards and flowers were sent to both and thank yous were acknowledged.

### Old Business:

Elections are coming up in October so we need to be thinking about nominations in September for the President's office and also for the Treasurers Office, the other offices have agreed to stay for their second year and we need a volunteer for Sunshine person as Sharon Minnich is resigning. Invoices for dues and directory updates have been handed out and are due by the September meeting, those who are not at the meeting will be mailed their statements.

**New Business:** Bert Sherman let the club know that Jonathan and Ashley Baker were not renewing their membership because they sold their Corvette and bought a Camaro.

**Name Tag Drawing:** Will be \$80.00 in September

### 50/25/25 Raffle:

First ticket drawn was Ruth Looney \$61.00, second ticket drawn was Marj Harp for \$61.00. Two \$10.00 gift cards for Yosemite Falls were won by Jack Back and Don Dukes.

There being no further business a motion was made by Allen Teixeira to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Larry Minnich the meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nancy Teixeira  
By/ net



**NANCY TEIXEIRA**  
**SECRETARY**

# CLAY'S MEMBERSHIP NEWS



## Membership

Clay reported that as of the 2015 Calendar Year COF has 139 members and 89 cars.



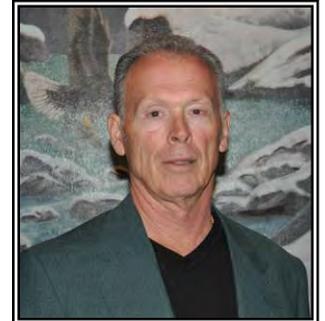
## Members & Guests

Total attendance: 78 - 73 Members & 5 Guests: Cher and Bill Elys, Jack and Margie Back, and Inez Rocha.

## Nametag drawing

Rolando Martinez name was drawn He was not present; the drawing will be \$80.00 next month.

Two \$10.00 gift cards for Yosemite Falls were won by Jack Back and Don Dukes.



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](http://www.corvettesoffresno.com) (contact Chris Campbell for the new access info)

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

JERRY & GAIL PELOIAN 2 - LEE & NONIE DELAP 5  
JACK & CONNIE QUIGLEY 5 - DARRICK & CARLA DUERKSEN 11  
MARVIN & MARYANN SCOTT 17 - CHRIS & KAYE CAMPBELL 21

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

PATTY McGRAW 2 - MELANIE SARKISIAN 5 - BILLIE TALLEY 7  
GAILA PELOIAN 9 - BERT SHERMAN 9 - NICK DILIDDO 12  
JIM AGAR 12 - JEANIE CARSON 15 - MARVIN SCOTT 16  
CARLA DUERKSEN 23 - RICK SARKISIAN 25

### 50/25/25 DRAWING WINNERS

RUTH LOONEY  
MARJ HARP

EACH WON  
\$61.00



CONGRATULATIONS



Sunshine Report  
by Sharon Minnich



JoAnn Najarian broke her arm and had surgery. Kelly Ashley had surgery also on July 27, both were at the meeting and doing well, cards and flowers were sent to both and thank yous were acknowledged.



# NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS



**2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES  
ARE DUE & PAYABLE AT THE  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 GENERAL MEETING**

**DUES PAID AFTER THE SEPT MEETING WILL BE  
CHARGED A \$20.00 LATE FEE & NAME WILL NOT  
APPEAR IN THE 2016 DIRECTORY**

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

**BYLAWS STATEMENT ON DUES (page 3)**

***After* the September meeting, membership shall be cancelled if  
dues are not paid. Individuals who have had their  
membership cancelled must pay the original dues plus a late  
fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00), with six dollars (\$6.00) going to  
the parent organization and fourteen dollars (\$14.00) going to  
Corvettes of Fresno. They shall be considered members on the  
day that total payment is made.**

**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING NOMINATION OF  
2016 BOARD MEMBERS**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR NOMINATIONS READY FOR  
THOSE MEMBERS YOU WOULD LIKE TO REPRESENT  
CORVETTES OF FRESNO DURING THE 2016  
CALENDAR YEAR!**



# CHUCK'S 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS PAGE



**SEPT 1, 2015 TUESDAY - BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE**

**SEPT 15, 2015 - TUESDAY - GENERAL MEETING 7:00 PM AT YOSEMITE FALLS CAFE LOCATED AT 4020 N. CEDAR IN GRANITE PARK**

**NOVEMBER 11, 2015 - WEDNESDAY - VETERANS DAY PARADE**  
BILLIE TALLEY 559-960-4666

**DEC 4<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TORNINOS, \$35.00 PER PERSON FROM 6 TO 11. SHARON MINNICH CHAIRPERSON. 559-449-3331**



**CHUCK FECCIA  
VP ACTIVITIES**

## **TAHOE 47 REVIEW MEETING**

**TAHOE 47 REVIEW MEETING WILL BE HELD AT  
7:00PM  
TUESDAY OCT 13, 2015 AT DENNY'S ON THE CORNER  
OF BLACKSTONE & HERNON**

## **WSCC**

**Allen Teixeira announced that the Redline newsletter will be out soon and if you do not receive a copy let him know.**

## **PLAN A RUN**

# **TAKE US TO YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TAHOE 48 - SEPTEMBER 8 - 11, 2016**

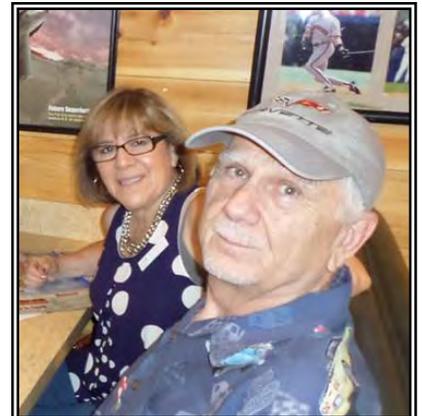
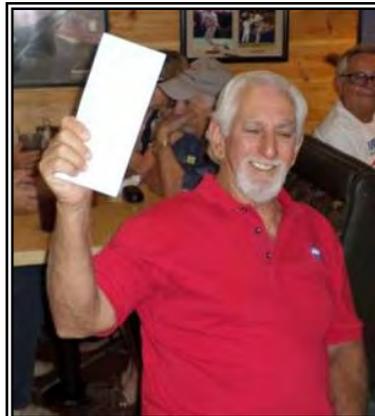
**There was a young fellow who was quite inventive and was always trying out new things. One day he thought he'd see just how fast a bicycle could go before it became uncontrollable. He asked his friend, who owned an old Mustang, if he could tie his bike to the bumper of his car to test his theory. His friend said, "Sure." So the young man tied his bike to the back of the car and said to his friend:**

**"I'll ring my bike bell once if I want you to go faster, twice if I want you maintain speed, and repeatedly if I want you to slow down." With that, off they went. Things were going pretty well, with the car driver slowly speeding up to well over 60 mph. The young fellow on the bike was handling the speed just fine. But, all of sudden, a black Corvette came up beside them and before you knew it the fellow driving the Mustang forgot all about the fellow on the bike and took to drag racing the Corvette.**

**A little further down the road sat Officer John in his police cruiser, radar gun at the ready. He heard the two cars before his radar flashed 105 mph. He called into headquarters on his radio: "Hey, you guys aren't going to believe this, but there's a Corvette and a Mustang racing out here on Highway 3, and there's a guy on a bike ringing his bell and waving his arms trying to pass them!"**

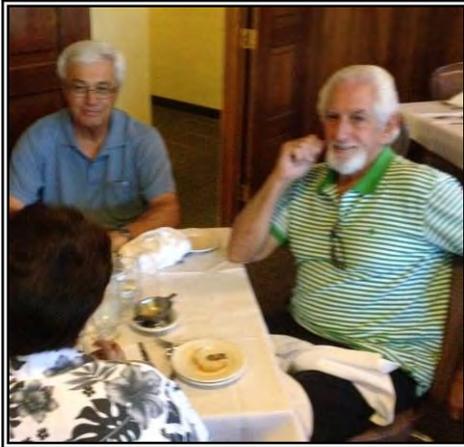


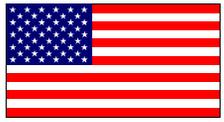
# CHUCK FECCIA'S MYSTERY LUNCH RUN



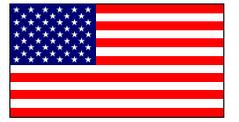


# "MEET & EAT" AUGUST 8, 2015





# VETS DAY PARADE



**Corvettes of Fresno will be participating in the Veteran's Day Parade on Wednesday November 11, 2015. We would like to invite all of our club members and all Veterans who have a Corvette to join us.**

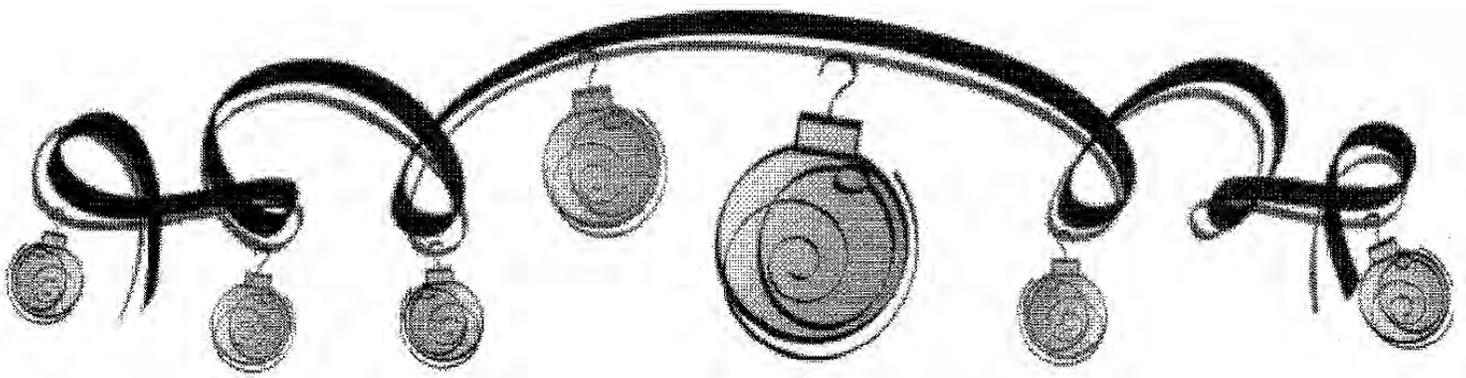
**This is always a heartwarming event and I want all of you to know how much I appreciate your participation in showing our Veterans the support they very well deserve. We will be meeting sometime that morning, exact time to be determined, in the parking lot on the NW corner of Fresno St. at Shaw Ave.**

**Billie will notify participants of the times once the parade committee gives us final details.**

**If you have any questions, please contact**

**Billie Talley at 559-960-4666.**





Corvettes of Fresno

Invites you to our

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

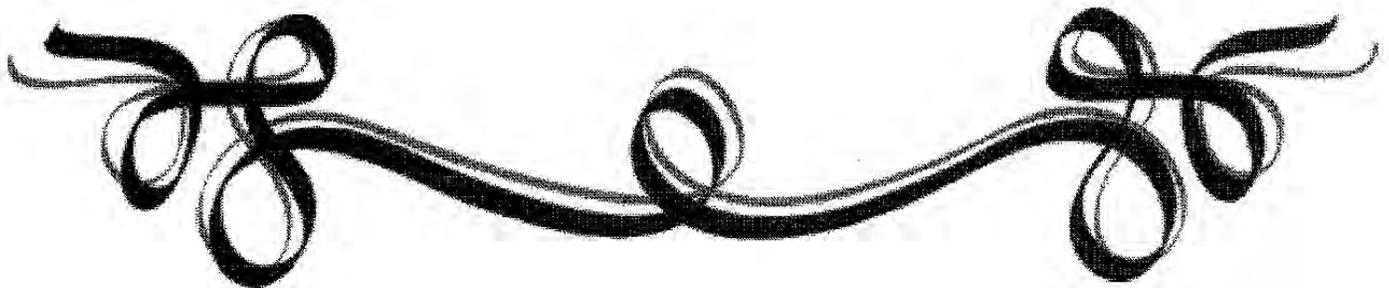
Friday, December 4th  
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

TorNino's  
5080 N. Blackstone Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93710  
Ph 559-222-2453

Dinner: Buffet Style  
Price: \$35.00 per person

Entertainment: DJ  
(same as last year)

Host: Sharon Minnich  
Ph #559-449-3331



## The National Corvette Museum Skydome Reopens to the Public

Ever since the sinkhole swallowed eight Corvettes in February 2014, we've been following the progress of the National Corvette Museum's efforts to retrieve the lost cars and then restore the Skydome back to normal. While the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the Skydome is planned for the 21st Anniversary Celebration next month, the Museum has recently opened up the area to the public.



Our pictures come from the Corvettes Around the Corner page on Facebook and we see many familiar Corvettes gracing the new Skydome's polished concrete floor.

An area has been designated for the "Great Eight" Corvettes that were recovered from the Skydome's sinkhole. The 2009 Corvette ZR1 which was restored and returned last year is there along with the six other Corvettes that still wear the scars from the disaster.



The 1992 Corvette that is the 1 Millionth Corvette will return for the ribbon cutting ceremony next month.

On the floor, yellow markings show the outline of where the sinkhole was before Skydome's floor was restored.

We also see the Museum's crown jewel – the only 1983 Corvette in existence. The new display which also debuted last year looks right at home back inside the Skydome.



# CORVETTES OF FRESNO, inc ADVERTISING CORNER



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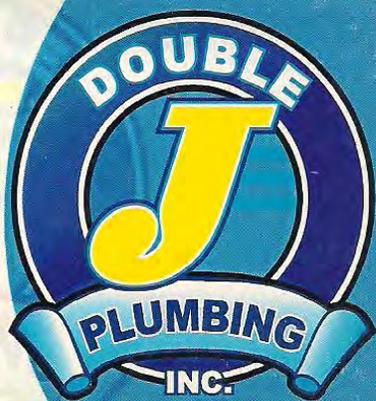
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Fax: 559-297-1304

## Joe Gonzalez President/Owner

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Fax (559) 226-7205

2219 N. Grantland Ave.  
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## GM's Trouble With Aussie Trademark Registration Reveals Details about Mid-Engine Corvette Zora

Last week, the Australian car magazine *Wheels* broke an exclusive report about the trouble that General Motors is having in securing a trademark in the land of Oz for its crossed-flags Corvette logo. Specifically, the Corvette logo trademark has been denied multiple times due to protections that Australian intellectual property laws grants to the Red Cross.



However, after reading the article and reaching out to the author who wrote the story, we believe the bigger news is that General Motors, in securing a trademark for its Corvette logo in Australia, is laying the foundation for the future importation of the rumored Mid-Engine Corvette codenamed Zora or ZoraZR1. But first a little background.

General Motors announced last year that it will be ceasing production from its Australian brand Holden in 2017, which leaves the Continent without a proper muscle car from GM. Stefan Jacoby, head of General Motors' international division, told Australian media in January that Holden will get a "halo model" after production of the V8 Commodore ends in 2017.

Chevrolet just launched its new sixth-generation 2016 Camaro and according to sources in the program, there are no plans to offer it as a Right Hand Drive model. That would be a requirement for a manufacturer to sell new automobiles in Australia. So that leaves Corvette as a possible choice for Holden. Except the current C7 Corvette is Left Hand Drive only as well and with no plans to reconfigure it for a Right Hand Drive Model, that could only mean a new Corvette will have to take its place.

According to the *Wheels* article, the Corvette would be offered for sale in Australia in 2018, which is also in the time-period that we would most likely see a new Corvette model. That date is significant in a number of ways, including the time frame for completion of the \$400+ million construction project for Bowling Green Assembly's expanded paint shop.

*Chevrolet's performance hero is due on sale here in 2018, rounding out a fleet of models set to replace the locally made HSV range once Australian manufacturing winds down in 2017.*

The issue with the Corvette trademark stems from protection that the Australian Red Cross symbol has enjoyed since the Geneva Conventions Act in 1957. As the Chevrolet crossed-flags logo contains a checkered flag on the left side and a red flag with the Chevrolet bowtie and the fleur-de-lis on the right, its application for trademark protection has been rejected four times as officials say the Chevy bowtie looks too much like the Red Cross symbol.

*Wheels* says that time is running out for General Motors and the trademark application is in danger of being officially rejected. In fact, about the only thing left for GM in securing a trademark for the Corvette's logo would be to obtain special permission from Australia's Defense Minister, Kevin Andrews.

A search of the IP Australia database confirms that GM does have the Stingray name trademarked there, and in a deeper search, we also found the trademark registration for the "Zora".

Prior to GM's bankruptcy, GM's VP of Global Products' Bob Lutz talked about the need to offer the Corvette as a Right Hand Drive model so that it could be offered for sale in more countries. Now with signs pointing to 2018 as the time frame, and with \$400+ million in upgrades to the Corvette's paint shop (while the entire C7 build-out cost only \$134 million), as well as the need to offer a Right Hand Drive model for export, we believe a new Corvette model will be offered in just two years.

## Corvette Beats Porsche to Win J.D. Power's 2015 APEAL Study

I finally took the plunge and test-drove a C7 Corvette last weekend.

My brief five minutes behind the wheel of a seven-speed Torch Red Z51 Coupe made me an instant believer in all the hoopla about Chevrolet's latest generation of America's Sports Car.



Going from the first year of the fifth generation (I have a 1997 Torch Red Coupe) to the first year of the seventh generation in one day showed me just how much the car has been improved, not that the C5 is a bad car by any means, though.

But now I can easily see why the Corvette beat last year's winner, the Porsche 911, as the most satisfying car in the "Midsize Premium Sports Car" category in a survey of new car owners released Wednesday by J.D. Power.

It was the first time Corvette had topped the category in 10 years.

Interestingly, Porsche emerged as the highest rated brand for the 11th straight year, though Chevy did manage a total of three segment award recipients, including the Sonic and the Colorado.

Nearly 85,000 people who bought a new car within the past 90 days took part in the survey, answering dozens of questions about their vehicles in J.D. Power's 2015 APEAL study.

The Corvette earned praise from its owners for fuel economy (nearly 30 mpg on the highway), acceleration (I can attest to that one during my brief drive on Highway 78 in Georgia), and audio system quality (the only music I heard was the sound of that sweet LT1 motor!).

“Interestingly, storage was also an advantage vs. the competition in this segment — with owners citing more trunk space,” J.D. Power said.

Owners of Corvettes aren't surprised about that one. Just remember the story I wrote in 2012 about being able to get \$295 worth of groceries in a C6 convertible, including 50 pounds of dog food and 25 pounds of cat food?

The APEAL Study is used extensively by manufacturers worldwide to help them design and develop more appealing vehicles and by consumers to help them in their purchase decisions. It complements the J.D. Power Initial Quality Study<sup>SM</sup> (IQS), which focuses on problems experienced by owners during the first 90 days of ownership. The 2015 U.S. APEAL Study is based on responses gathered between February and May 2015 from more than 84,000 purchasers and lessees of new 2015 model-year cars and light trucks who were surveyed after 90 days of ownership.

## 2016 Corvette Shaves 20 Pounds Thanks to New Body Panels by Continental Structural Plastics

One thing about Corvettes: You can count on constant innovations and improvements to the car every year.

Just check out this announcement Tuesday by Continental Structural Plastics, a supplier of body panel materials for the 2016 Stingray.

By becoming the first production model to use the TCA® Ultra Lite™ material, the new Stingray coupe has shaved 20 pounds off its total weight.



A pretty impressive achievement considering the diet the seventh-generation model had already been on. Corvette Chief Engineer Tadge Juechter is among those impressed.

**“In materials engineering, shaving a single pound per car is a significant accomplishment, so saving 20 pounds per car is monumental,” he said. “This is a great example of how Chevrolet is continually looking for innovations that improve performance on Corvette, and could benefit possible future applications.”**

**The new process achieves the dramatic weight loss by using treated glass bubbles to replace some of the calcium carbonate filler. That adds up to a lot of weight savings since the material is used on 27 body panel assemblies on the C7, including doors, decklids, quarter panels and fenders.**

**“Through a joint continuous improvement effort, Chevrolet and CSP have significantly reduced the density of the Corvette body panels – from 1.9 specific gravity for the 2013 model year, to 1.6 specific gravity for the 2014 model year to 1.2 for the 2016 model year,” said Christopher Basela, Lead Engineer for Corvette Body Composites.**

**But weight savings isn’t the only plus gained by using TCA Ultra Lite.**

**The material also offers a premium Class A finish with paint and gloss qualities comparable to metals and passes all OEM paint tests. It’s also cheaper, especially for production volumes under 150,000 – like the Corvette. In fact, the company says tooling costs for composites can be as much as 50 to 70 percent lower than those for stamping steel or aluminum.**

**“We have been working closely with GM to launch this patented, weight-saving technology on the iconic Corvette, achieving this conversion with no changes in material thickness or tooling while maintaining the superior surface finish required for this premium vehicle,” said CSP Chairman and CEO Frank Macher. “With this successful launch, we can say TCA Ultra Lite is proven to offer several advantages over aluminum, and is truly the next generation of lightweighting technology for the automotive industry.”**

**Who knows, maybe the new material will be used on the widely rumored mid-engine Corvette in the next couple of years.**

## **The History of Corvette Horsepower**

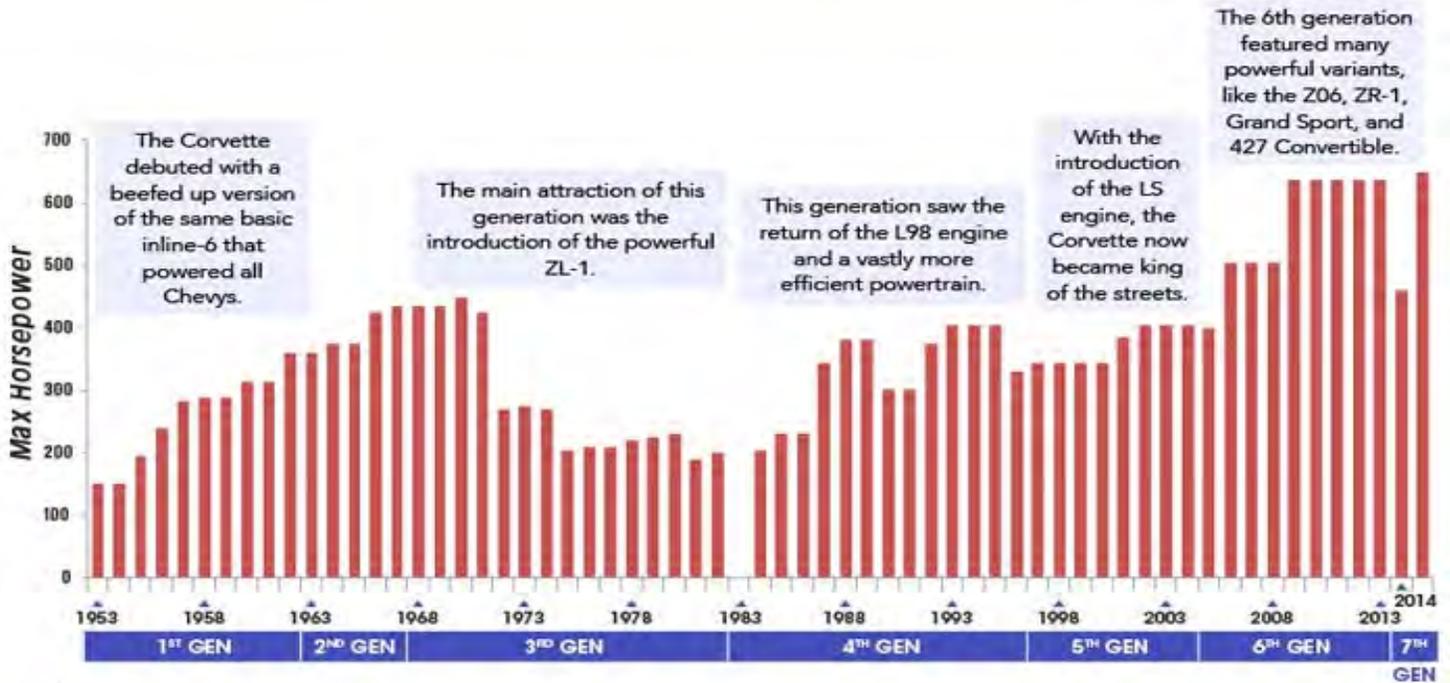
**Thanks to NewGMParts.com, we have an interesting infographic to share which shows sixty-three years of Corvette Horsepower.**

**The infographic is a great tool to visually see how horsepower in Corvettes has evolved over the year. The moment Zora Arkus-Duntov stuffed a 195-hp V8 in the 1955 Corvette, he started a nearly 15 year growth in Corvette’s power. Then came the 70’s where the oil embargo, EPA emissions requirements and a lack of focus created Corvette’s lost decade (or two). That all changed with the Callaway B2K introduction in 1987 and from there the Corvette returned to form once again. From C5 through today, Chevy officially threw down the gauntlet and there is no mistake that we are now living in the golden age of horsepower.**

**Today, the Chevrolet Corvette Z06 with 650 horsepower is the most powerful vehicle in GM’s line-up.**

# Corvette's History of Horsepower

See How Corvette Horsepower Has Evolved Since its Debut in 1953



The Corvette debuted with a beefed up version of the same basic inline-6 that powered all Chevys.

The main attraction of this generation was the introduction of the powerful ZL-1.

This generation saw the return of the L98 engine and a vastly more efficient powertrain.

With the introduction of the LS engine, the Corvette now became king of the streets.

The 6th generation featured many powerful variants, like the Z06, ZR-1, Grand Sport, and 427 Convertible.



## 1953-1962

The debut Corvette was available with several different engine options in the first generation from a carb'ed 3.9L I6 to a fuel injected 5.4L V8.



## 1963-1967

12 different engine options were offered for C2 Corvettes, all of them were V8s.



## 1968-1982

While the top horsepower rating expanded, most C3 Corvettes didn't get the top engine treatment. Although all V8s, most barely made it into the 200 horsepower range.



## 1984-1996

Even though there were no huge power makers for the C4, most Corvettes made power in the 200-300 horsepower range.



## 1997-2004

Corvettes really started to get fast with the C5 and engine options were shaved way down from 10+ to just two – the LS1 or LS6.



## 2005-2013

## 2005-2013

GM was bloodthirsty when they made the C6 Corvettes – producing a base model with more horsepower than the top models prior. Then they introduced the ZR1 and changed the game forever.



## 2014

The new C7s feature some of the fastest Corvettes ever made, and faster packages are already under development!

## **Resident's Group Calls on Attorney General over Noise Dispute with the Corvette Museum's Motorsports Park**

**Resident's near the National Corvette Museum's Motorsports Park are not happy with the park's decision to ignore a noise violation that would have stopped track events and construction of track facilities.**

**Now they want Kentucky's Attorney General Jack Conway to take step into the fray.**



**The attorney representing the group known as Residents Against Motorsports Track Noise LLC sent the letter to the Attorney General on July 14th requesting action. The group has 92 members.**

**According to an article in the Bowling Green Daily News, the letter told the Attorney General that "Our neighborhood is suffering, and we need someone to help protect our rights," and that "We hope that you will help us to restore peace. We are requesting that action be taken by your office."**

**Warren County issued a notice of violation on June 29th to the track despite the Corvette Museum's Executive Director Wendell Strode meeting with residents the day before and requesting time to do additional noise abatement studies. The Museum had also previously changed the layout of where the garages and pavilion would be built to help absorb more track noise.**

**The Notice of Violation directed the Museum to halt all track activities and construction within 24 hours and called on Museum officials to submit a construction outline and timeline to comply with binding elements from the Warren County Planning Commission which include noise abatement. In addition, the executive director of the planning commission Steve Hunter said that a development plan must be submitted and the park must be in full compliance with those binding elements with a deadline of 90 days from the June 29th citation.**

**The letter was sent to the Attorney General as the resident group believes Warren County officials have ignored their concerns. "We have appealed to every government department in Warren County to seek enforcement, but we have been ignored." "We feel that local politics has contributed to depriving us of our rights." Janet Jent, one of the organizers for the group, said "We just want them to build a barrier like we were promised before they built the racetrack, that's all."**

**The Attorney General's office has said the letter from the resident's group was received and it will be reviewed.**

## **Callaway Corvette Z06 Makes 757 Horsepower and 777 lb-ft Torque**

The latest chapter in Callaway Cars rich history of offering unrivaled Corvette performance has been written with the introduction of their flagship performance car, the Callaway Corvette Z06. Although the car officially made its debut at the 2015 National Corvette Museum's Bash, today the company is pleased to announce the official performance figures for the Callaway Z06.



The Callaway Z06, armed with a 32% larger displacement supercharger over Chevrolet's stock model, will produce 757 horsepower and 777 lb-ft of torque. That translates to 0-60 mph of 2.8 seconds and a quarter mile time of 10.5 seconds at 131 mph!

Callaway's engineers took a different path from Chevrolet when the Callaway Corvette Stingray was released last year by utilizing outside air flowing over the exposed top of the patent pending supercharger which helps keep the unit cooler than a unit that is covered by the hood. The Callaway Z06 maintains that design with their unique triple-element intercooler which reduces inlet air temperatures while heat from the exposed supercharger is inherently extracted from the engine compartment.

All that you need to know is that the Callaway Corvette Z06 will provide massive, consistent power – lap after lap!

Standard equipment of the Callaway Corvette Z06 includes:

- Callaway GenThree Supercharger (pat. pend.) with Triple-Element Intercooler System**
- Callaway Supercharger Hood Surround**
- Callaway Carbon Fiber Engine Mid-Covers**
- Callaway High Flow Air Intake System**
- Callaway Embroidered Floor Mats**
- Callaway Anodized Aluminum Door Sill Panels**
- Callaway Exterior and Interior Badging**
- Callaway Underhood Build Plaque with Vehicle Identification Number**
- Callaway Key Fobs Callaway Authenticity Documentation Package**
- Callaway 3 Year, 36,000 Mile Limited Warranty**

Additional options and equipment for 2016 Callaway Corvette Z06 includes ShortThrow Shifter, Callaway Sport Exhaust with Double-D Tips, Embroidered Car Cover, and National Corvette Museum Delivery.

Callaway's Corvette Z06 packages start at \$16,995 and the car is now in production. And when you order a Callaway Corvette, it comes standard with a 3 Year/36,000 Mile limited warranty which supplements the factory GM warranties and allows them to be serviced by GM dealerships nationwide. A 5 Year/60,000 Mile Powertrain Service Contract is also available.

## Corvette Girlfriend Beats Her BMW-Driving Boyfriend at the Track

We love it when the ladies flex their Corvette power at the track and who's better equipped to take a beating than the boyfriend driving a BMW.

This intra-couple beat-down happened recently at the Royal Purple Raceway between the Corvette girlfriend and the boyfriend in a BMW 3-Series Sedan.

Now before you go off saying, "oh the chick was driving an automatic", you'll see she was shifting through a manual 6-speed like a pro.



The post-race comments from the two participants were especially delicious when Corvette girlfriend was asked about racing her boyfriend and beating him, "that's the best part," she said. Asked if he wanted to go again and she said "he has to let his car rest".

The defeated boyfriend pays respect to his girl, "I knew it was going to be 'tuff, she's a good shifter with that short throw..." and then says "I'm going to have to do a couple things to the car...so I'm hoping I'm gonna win."

The Corvette was modified with an exhaust system and ECU remap while the twin-turbo BMW was modded with a cold air intake and tune.

## C3 Corvette Hit By Ambulance Responding to an Emergency Call

The driver and passenger is this hopped-up C3 Corvette Convertible needed an ambulance after being struck by another ambulance on Sunday afternoon in Boardman, OH.

The accident occurred on Sunday afternoon after 4:00 pm when the Corvette Stingray failed to yield right of way in a busy intersection to the to the emergency vehicle which was responding to a call with its siren on and lights flashing.



Reports say the couple in the Corvette as well as the ambulance driver were transported by a different ambulance to a local hospital in Youngstown.

Police say the driver of the Corvette will be cited.

## July 2015 Corvette Sales

General Motors released the July 2015 sales report and despite the model year changeover that occurred in June, Chevrolet managed to sell 2,794 Corvettes during the month. This is an -8.7% decline in sales over the same time last year with 3,060 Corvettes delivered during July 2014.



For the Calendar Year to Day (CYTD), a total of 21,101 Corvettes were delivered to new owners for a 1.4% gain on 2014's CYTD sales of 20,804.

In June 2015, there were 2,807 Corvette delivered for a month to month change of just 0.46%.

As we stated, many new 2016 Corvettes that were initially built in June after the model year change over ended up sitting at the factory until their final quality checks had been validated. They were released in July and we are just now seeing them arrive at their dealerships for delivery.

Here's the GM Sales Report for Corvettes in July 2015:

Corvette Delivery Statistics for July 2015							
Month				Calendar Year-to-Date			
Month	2015	2014	% Change	Months	2015	2014	% Change
July	2,794	3,060	-8.7%	Jan-Jul	21,101	20,804	1.4%

Corvette Sales Monthly Archive:

Archived Monthly Corvette Delivery Statistics													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	2,127	2,605	3,785	3,469	3,514	2,807	2,794						21,101
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

For the month of July 2015, GM delivered 272,512 vehicles in the United States which was up 6% over sales in July 2014. Collectively, this was the best July for the four GM brands since 2007.

For Chevrolet, July's sales were up 8% and it was the best July since 2006. Chevrolet saw an increase of 24% in its pickup, van and SUV sales and July was also the best month ever for crossover sales.

## **Granny Hits 171 MPH in Her C5 Corvette at the Sun Valley Road Rally**

One of the fastest grandmothers in the Corvette hobby is back in the news after taking her C5 Corvette for a run at the 2015 Sun Valley Road Rally.

Of course we are talking about 82 year old Shirley Veine who has become somewhat of a fixture at the Sun Valley Road Rally with her "Go Granny Go" t-shirts and her own personal fan club of family and friends.



Every year, the Sun Valley Road Rally transforms Highway 75 outside of Ketchum, ID into a no-holds bar top speed drag way with everything from Bugatti's to classic hot-rods taking their turn on the two-lane blacktop.

Last year, our favorite grandmother in the rally broke 166 mph in her Corvette and after the run, she vowed she would be back after getting some work done on the car. Well, Shirley didn't disappoint, this time breaking her personal record with a run of 171 MPH.

According to a post on her facebook page, Shirley's goal was hit 175 mph but a strong headwind and some issues with the passenger window brought down her run to 171.4 mph as official recorded:

*Shirley hit 171.4 mph with a strong headwind as you can see by the checkered flag blowing straight back at her. The wind also blew her passenger side window inward out of its track, Brent Rule her co-driver and mechanic (Restoration Rods) had to push back against it throughout her run. When we receive the video from the camera that was mounted inside her car we will get to hear how loud it got inside her car when the window blew in. Shirley was shooting for 175 + mph, but the wind definitely held her back, all in all it was a great run. We don't know of any other 82 year old women that have driven a street legal car that fast. We are very proud of her!!!!!!*

**Congratulations again Shirley for showing us that anyone at any age can enjoy their Corvettes. You just do it faster than most! We'll be rooting for that 175 MPH run next year too!**

## **Corvette Museum's Attorneys Respond to Motorsports Park Noise Violation**

The National Corvette Museum is explaining the steps it plans to take to help cut noise coming from the Motorsports Park.

But will that solution actually work?

The explanation came in a letter dated July 29 from the NCM to the City-County Planning Commission of Warren County.



But while the NCM plan will meet the legal requirements to keep the park open and in compliance with an agreement reached with local officials before the track ever opened, NCM officials point out in their letter they are worried the proposed noise abatement structures would actually be more effective if built in different locations than agreed upon earlier.

Moving the structures to new locations, “regrettably, is not consistent with the binding elements and DDP (detailed development plan) previously adopted and approved,” NCM attorney Charles E. English Jr. said in the letter to Steve Hunter, executive director for the planning commission, Because of noise violations, the NCM has already been issued – and continues to violate – a notice to cease operations issued June 29 by the planning commission.

English maintains the original plan approved in 2014 contained construction of a noise abatement structure on the southern and eastern property line.

But recent monitoring data and analysis by acoustic engineers, the NCM attorney says, show that the noise could be better suppressed by building the structures in different places, such as closer to the track.

No fines have been charged to the museum yet, but residents upset with the NCM's failure to close have continued to complain, even recently taking their case to the state attorney general.

What's interesting about the noise complaints is that a 2013 report from Anderson Consulting of Lansing, Mich., concluded that the track when events were being conducted would only increase noise levels by a maximum of seven decibels, an amount not considered to be excessive by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's 2011 Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy, which defines a substantial noise increase “as a 10 db (decibel) or greater increase in noise levels in the design year compared to the existing noise level.”

That report's conclusions don't seem to agree with Clark Circle residents, who have complained to officials that they can not hear their TVs inside their homes, even with windows closed, because of the noise generated by the nearby track.

The NCM says it hopes to solve the noise problem by Sept. 29, but the planning commission is still evaluating their letter.

We don't think this one is close to the finish line yet.

## **Corvette Racing at Road America: Magnussen, Garcia Keep GTLM Points Lead with P4 Finish**

Despite a fourth place finish in the ultra-competitive GT Le Mans class, Corvette Racing's Antonio Garcia and Jan Magnussen were the big winners for Chevrolet in the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship's Continental Tire Road Race Showcase at Road America on Sunday.



In GT Le Mans (GTLM), Garcia and Magnussen used clever strategy late in the race to battle back to a fourth place class finish with their No. 3 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R and increase their lead in the class' Driver's Championship.

With three GTLM races to go, Garcia and Magnussen have a four-point advantage heading into the next round at Virginia International Raceway in two weeks. The No. 3 Corvette C7.R crew made the call to make their final stop earlier than most of their competitors, which allowed Garcia to push hard on new Michelin tires while others' tires were falling off. The move allowed the No. 3 Corvette to gain four positions over the final 42 minutes.

Oliver Gavin and Tommy Milner placed seventh in their No. 4 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R. Milner drove two stints in the opening 82 minutes while the No. 3 Corvette changed drivers on their first three stops. Gavin was charging hard to pick up multiple positions late in the race before a fellow GTLM competitor forced him off track in the final minutes.

The next round of the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship is the Oak Tree Grand Prix from Virginia International Raceway. The GT-only race is set for 1:05 p.m. ET on Sunday, Aug. 23. Live TV coverage begins at 1 p.m. ET on FOX Sports 1. Flag-to-flag radio coverage also will be available via IMSA Radio.

**ANTONIO GARCIA, NO. 3 CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R – FINISHED FOURTH IN GTLM**

*WHEN YOU GET TO THIS POINT OF THE SEASON, EVERY POINT COUNTS: “That is the point. I mean I was excited, and at some points angry (during a battle with the No. 25 BMW) but that is where it is. We are heading into the last few races of a championship. Everybody needs to run as hard as they can. I wouldn’t say that I wouldn’t have done the same thing, but probably; everybody tries to find the limit on protecting. At the end of the day, we didn’t touch, we didn’t have any major issues. He got caught on the only way – in traffic. At the end of the day I played my card. Traffic is part of the deal. I really used my opportunity to go by. It was difficult since I got back in the car again on our second stop. During the first stint I was saving my tires just in case, then I was just 100 percent the rest of the way because I needed to pass everybody out there. We went off sequence (on pit strategy) so we probably forced most everyone to follow us, and at the end of the day it paid off. They stayed out as much as they could. I was really aggressive when I needed to be and I passed all those cars when they were on their first two or three laps. To be fair looking at our pace, that was the best result we could achieve today, so I am happy with that.”*

**JAN MAGNUSSEN, NO. 3 CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R – FINISHED FOURTH IN GTLM**

*WHAT DID YOU SEE AND FEEL DURING YOUR STINT? “To start out with, things were pretty good. I liked the balance of the Corvette. I lost some time at the end of my stint with pickup on the tires. It might be something I’m doing or something that we need to try and help the car with to not produce all the pickup. I’m not sure why I had it in the warmup and during my stint. It’s something we have to work at for the next race.”*

**OLIVER GAVIN, NO. 4 CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R – FINISHED SEVENTH IN GTLM**

*IT LOOKED LIKE A CLEAN RACE BUT THINGS JUST DIDN’T GO THE WAY YOU NEEDED: “I think we all drove really hard, and raced hard with the BMWs. It was a little frustrating at the end there. I thought I was racing Lucas (Luhr) pretty fair, but he put me in the grass coming out of (Turn) 13. I’m a little frustrated about that. I didn’t think that needed to happen, but sometimes that is just racing. I looked after the tires reasonably well throughout the stint, and really gained some time back on all the guys in front of me. But there were definitely two races in the (GTLM) race today. There was the Corvette/BMW race, and then there was the Porsche/Ferrari race. When it is like that it is just very demoralizing and very frustrating that you can’t have everybody in the class racing overall for all of the positions. We knew from the very start that we didn’t have a chance to finish on the podium unless either one of the Porsches or the Ferrari broke down. I hope the series is going to look at and do something about that before we go to VIR, otherwise the rest of the season is going to be very frustrating.”*

**TOMMY MILNER, NO. 4 CHEVROLET CORVETTE C7.R – QUALIFIED FIFTH IN GTLM**

*WAS THE TRACK MUCH DIFFERENT WITH A DAY OF SUN AND DRY WEATHER? “The track felt pretty good. The sun certainly helps the grip level. We fought really hard with the cars around us. There was*

*some tight and good racing. We really have nothing for the factory Porsches. They're in a different class. We've really done nothing wrong today."*

**DOUG FEHAN, CORVETTE RACING PROGRAM MANAGER:**

*"Today, I think we did the best with what we had to work with. It was a very interesting race between our Corvettes, the BMWs and the Falken Porsche. I know the fans got a kick out of it. We would have liked to have a higher finish but with the way the cars are situated right now, that wasn't going to be. We advanced ourselves in Driver and Team championship points and gathered points in the Manufacturer Championship. We'll move on to Virginia where we're hoping for a better result. We're going to work hard to achieve that."*

## **Two Dead after C6 Corvette Collides with a Moose in Canada**

An estimated 500,000 to 1 million moose live in Canada.

Saturday night about 1:40 am, one of them wandered onto a Canadian highway and crashed into a red C6 Corvette, killing the two occupants in the car.



The two victims, a man 58 years old and a woman 53, have not been identified, other than their hometown of Donnacona, Quebec.

After the collision with the moose, the Corvette continued rolling, crossing the median and the northbound lane and entering a ditch. Eventually, the car flipped over onto its roof after hitting a stone wall 150 feet away. The victims had to be removed from the car with the Jaws of Life.

Photos of the crash scene show what appears to be skid marks, but news reports say that it was actually fluid from the car's braking system.

The accident happened in the Laurentides wildlife park, a wildlife reserve between Quebec City and the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region of Quebec, Canada. The reserve has more than 2,000 lakes and is known by outdoor enthusiasts for hunting and fishing.

Protective fencing had been installed in an attempt to limit the number of moose in the road, but the accident happened in an area without a fence.

A male moose can grow as tall as nearly 7 feet at the shoulder and weigh between 800 to 1,500 pounds.

## Just a Corvette Towing an Atomic Bomb

We've seen people haul all kinds of the things with their Corvettes like a motorcycle in a C4 or a classic C1 Corvette towing a helicopter. But I bet you never seen anything like this!

From our You Don't See That Everyday files come this picture of a C4 Corvette towing what looks to be a replica of the "Little Boy" atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan at the end of World War II.



Where this Corvette is headed with their Atomic Bomb in tow we have no idea, but we can imagine the looks this driver got along the way.

## Hackers Take Control of a C6 Corvette's Brakes Using a Smartphone

If your wipers start to act wacky or your brakes suddenly go on and off on your Corvette, you might be the victim of a computer hacker.

But university researchers in California say it's not just Corvettes but most all modern vehicles that are subject to the whims of a malicious hacker.

Researchers at the University of California at San Diego have posted a video to



YouTube that shows them activating the wipers and engaging or disengaging the brakes on a 2013 Corvette, just by sending an SMS message to the on-board diagnostics (OBD) devices that are used by insurance companies to keep up with your speed and location.

The researchers also say they could attack other systems – including the locks, steering, and transmission – on most modern vehicles just by making a few modifications.

Fortunately, after being alerted by the researchers, the company distributing the dongles was nice enough to wirelessly pushed security updates to the devices.

Still, we have to wonder where all this is headed. Could a terrorist attack target our vehicles, leaving us vulnerable as we speed along the nation's highways?

Reportedly, the White House is requiring the use of the OBD monitors for any federal agency with fleets of 20 vehicles or more. That could leave our government open to terrorist hacks, not to mention all the ordinary folks like you and me who are just minding our own business on the nation's roads.

If you plug a wireless device into your car's internal network, you could apparently be opening yourself up to such hacks, at least according to these UCSD researchers. Having a vehicle that's capable of hooking up to the Internet is great, but leave it to the bad guys for trying to ruin a good thing for ordinary Joes.

Other Corvettes are also arrayed around the bright red spire including a couple of 1996 special editions – a Grand Sport and a Collector's Edition Coupe – along with a collection of Anniversary Corvettes ranging from a 1978 25th Anniversary Coupe to a 2013 60th Anniversary 427 Convertible.

### **Original Low Mile 1969 Corvette L88 to be Offered in Monterey**

**This unrestored 1969 Corvette L88 coupe will make you think it's the '60s again!**

**How many 46-year-old cars do you know that have just 2,576 miles showing on the odometer, and furthermore how many do you know**

**that have the legendary 427/430 L88 engine lurking under their hood?**



**But that's the story behind this impressive time-capsule of a Corvette that will be auctioned off at the Rick Cole Monterey Auction Aug. 13-15 at the Marriott Hotel near Fisherman's Wharf.**

**Preliminary estimates are that what's being billed as "the lowest-mile, totally unrestored and original L88 in existence" will fetch between \$650,000 and \$750,000.**

**The car started off as an unlikely candidate to reach this pinnacle as the original owner, Raymond Butler, a member of the Corvette Club of Michigan, used the car during the summer of 1969 in autocross, slalom, and drag racing and is responsible for putting most of the mileage on the odometer. During Butler's ownership, another driver posted an 11.7-second ET. Interestingly, some rub marks are still at the rear of the car, caused by the slicks used at the drag races.**

After that first summer, though, Butler soon stored the car and wound up selling it to fellow club member Dave Davies in 1972, but the new owner attracted so much attention from police on one trip that he parked the car and never drove it again. What a shame!

In 1975, Werner Meier became the third owner and only added nine miles to the clock, those coming at the L88 Earthquake in 1988 at the Bloomington Special Collection. He sold it in 2000 to Jim Mattison, founder of Pontiac Historical Services, who passed it on to a prominent California collection in 2006 before the current Consignor.

The list of honors for this car goes on and on, including being a member of the Bloomington Gold Special Collection in 1988 and Bloomington Gold Hall of Fame in 1998 and an invitee to the 2003 Bloomington Gold Special 50th Anniversary celebration. It also was an NCRS Top Flight Award Winner in 2005.

As one of just 116 L88s built in 1969 (only 20 were made in 1967 and 80 in 1968), this Corvette is even rarer since it is one of just 10 L88s that came with the 4.56 Positraction rear axle.

The only way to get a better L88 probably would be to climb into a time machine, hit the switch to go back to 1969, and visit a Chevy dealer.

The new owner will receive extensive documentation, including the original window sticker, GM Protect-O-Plate, warranty booklet, and the sticker from the gas tank, which has been carefully removed for preservation.

By the way, the factory's 430-horsepower rating is a joke as the L88 actually made well over 500 horses in stock version. Since it was so powerful, Chevy discouraged L88 sales to non-professional racers and described it as an "off-road vehicle." Indeed, while a four-speed manual and heavy-duty Turbo 400 automatic transmission were available, buyers could not get the frilly stuff like air conditioning, power steering and windows, and a radio.

Clearly, the options that were available (and were actually mandatory) – things like J56 heavy-duty brakes, F-41 special suspension, K66 transistorized ignition, and G80 Positraction differential – targeted serious racers.

All that power allowed the Corvette to climb past the 150-mph mark fresh out of the factory, and minor tweaks saw owners reach 11-second quarter-mile times.

Today, the L88 remains one of the most desirable and valuable high-performance autos around, with the legendary performance of L88 racers like Tony De Lorenzo, Don Yenko, and Dick Guldstrand adding to the aura of the vehicle.

As you might expect, this particular L88 is one for the historians to serve as a benchmark of originality, since it has 90 percent of the original exterior paint and a totally unrestored interior that even includes the warning sticker requiring the use of 103-octane fuel only.

**Chevy Says You Should Change Your Corvette Z06's Oil After First 500 Miles**

Chevrolet's Corvette Z06 is a technological masterpiece when it comes to spinning fast laps on a track, but there does seem to be a not so positive narrative emerging about the LT4s inability to keep those track laps going without overheating or worse, having the engine granading itself.

We've told the tale of a Corvette Forum user named 'lawdogg149' whose Corvette Z06's engine blew up with just 891 miles on the odometer while another Forum owners says his blew up with only 6 miles on it. Most recently, Fox New Reporter Gary Gastelu ended his track day early after dropping oil and "some bits and pieces" on the track. According to Chevrolet, the issues with these cars seem to have three things in common – early production builds, oil contamination and low miles.

The Truth About Cars website (TTAC) reports that Chevrolet has acknowledged that contaminates in the oil are cycling through the engine during the break in period with is 0-500 miles. Those contaminates may be thread shavings from the oil filter. To combat the issue, Chevrolet is now asking owners to change their oil at 500 miles to help remove any of those contaminates which may have worked their way into the oil system.



Chevrolet's Corvette spokesman Monte Doran provided the following statement to TTAC:

*“We now encourage all owners to change their oil at 500 miles to remove possible contaminants created during the engine break-in process. And, as always, we encourage the use of Mobil 1 synthetic oil – which is a factory fill for all Z06 models, and Stingray Z51 models – and encourage owners to follow the engine break-in process detailed in the owner’s manual”*

Mobil 1's David Tsurusaki reminds us (and we are reminding you) that when you get your oil changed, confirm with the service department that they are using Mobil 1 oil which is part of the Chevrolet Complete Care Program. If a dealer tells you that Mobil 1 requires an additional fee, tell them to lookup GlobalConnect message # G\_0000205212 for details.

If you have a Corvette Stingray with the Z51 package, get your oil changed at 500 miles as well. It's a covered service and it just a good practice to follow.

Chevrolet says they are making changes to the manufacturing process to help minimize the risk of oil contamination and that of the 9,000 Corvette Z06s produced, less than one percent have had engine problems.

Because Chevrolet believes the issues were happening in early production builds, let's hope the oil contamination issue has been solved. Now if we could just get something done about those overheating problems.

## Corvette Will Be the Last Vehicle to Go Autonomous

All the talk about self-driving cars from Google and others sure to follow has been a little worrisome for those of us Corvette enthusiasts who actually enjoy climbing behind the wheel and – egads! – driving our vehicles the way they are designed to be driven.



The good news is that Corvette Chief Engineer

Tadge Juechter recently made public comments that should allow enthusiasts to rest easy.

During Horsepower Wars, WWJ-950's annual business breakfast at Duggan's Irish Pub in Royal Oak, Michigan, Juechter said the Corvette will be the "last" vehicle to adopt driverless technology.

Juechter received huge applause from the audience of performance car enthusiasts when he said: "We probably as a group will be the last to adopt autonomous technology. The whole purpose of our cars is to enjoy the driving experience, not to check out your email while you're moving from one place to the other."

Juechter and other performance leaders from Ford and Dodge had other good news for enthusiasts, predicting that muscle cars of the future will continue to take advantage of technological advances with lighter-weight materials and more-efficient engines.

While we appreciate the fact that Juechter is looking out for us, we still are a little concerned about the notion that the government might stick its nose into our business and actually make it illegal to drive a car some day in the future.

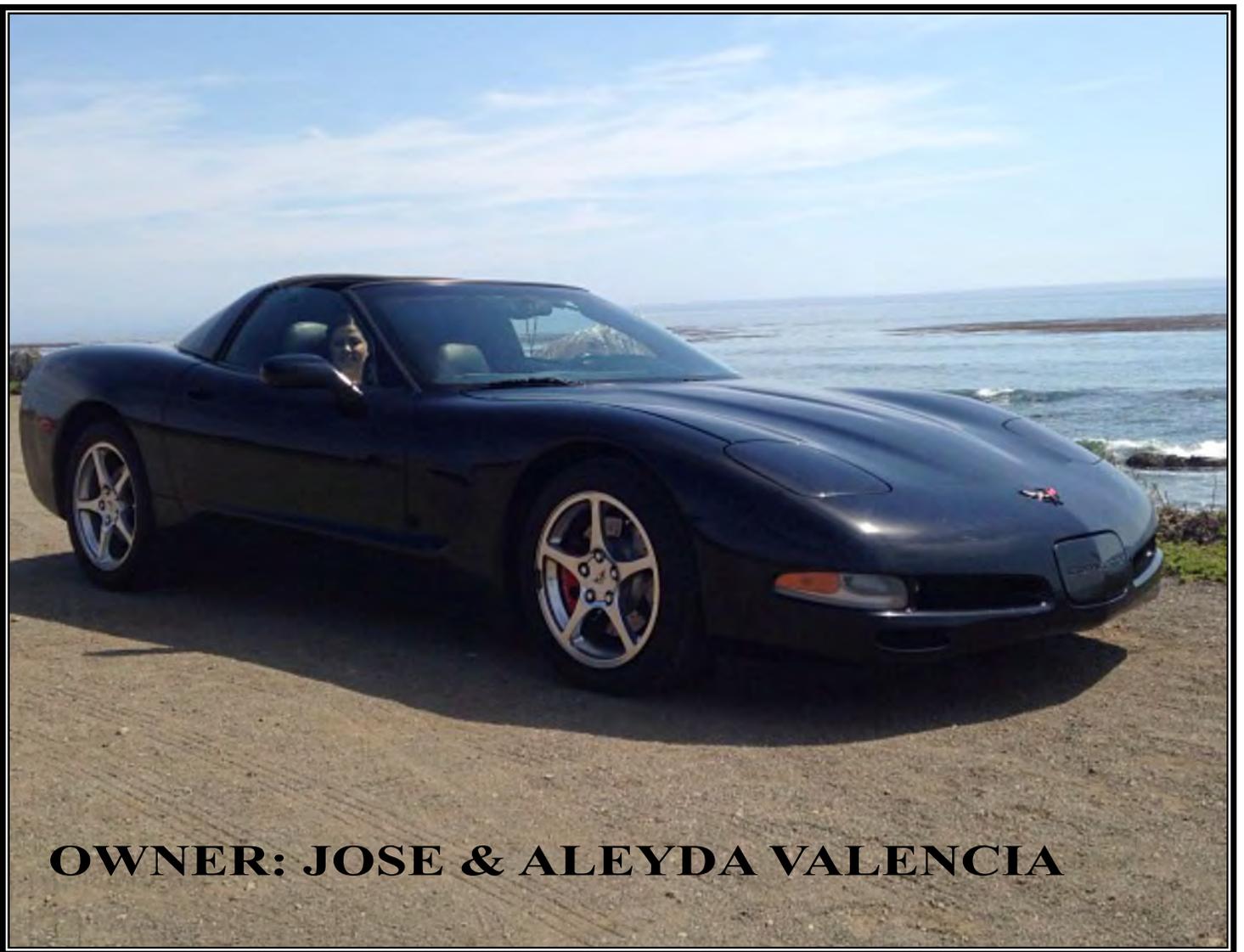
If that did happen, how ironic it would be because right now, people are concerned that driverless cars are not as safe as having a human driver behind the wheel to make decisions. If autonomous vehicles ever prove to be much safer, though, then we could be facing a day when you might have to retrofit your 1967 Corvette big-block 427 with self-driving technology to make it legal to use.

What a sad day that would be for performance car enthusiasts!

But at least we know that Tadge is on our side for the foreseeable future.

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