



Keepin' Track - SLO Vettes

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

December Issue

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Cover Page

Monthly Newsletter

December 2024

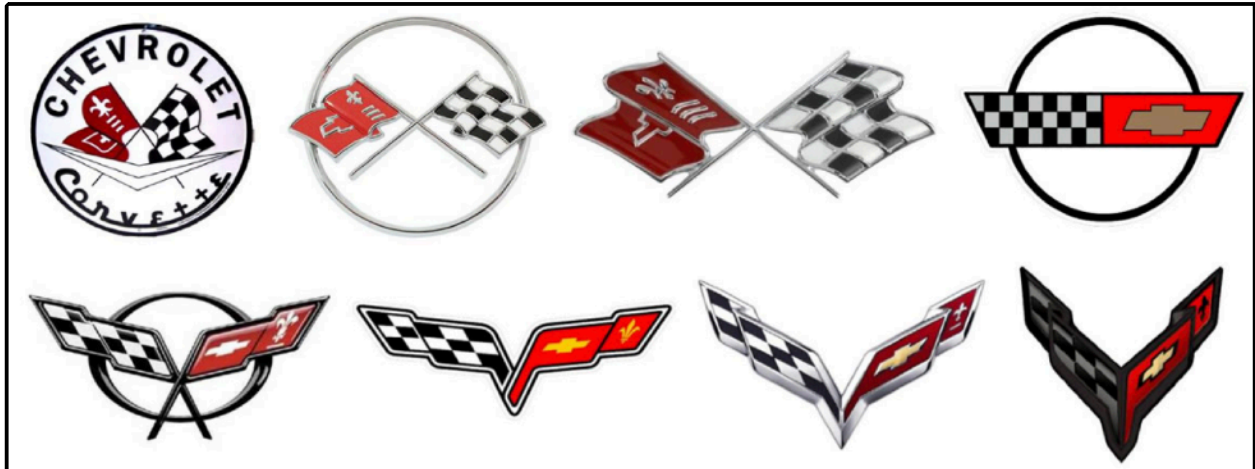
*Have a Very, Very
Merry Christmas!*



'Twas The Night Before Christmas and All Through the House . . .

We understand that Costco has a special Christmas Bag available for just \$4,500 dollars into which you can drive a C8 Base, a C8 Z51, a C8 Z06, and even a C8 ZR-1, for that “under the tree look” so important at this time of year. For an extra \$4,000 Costco will contract with two weight lifters who, dressed as Santa Claus and his Chief Elf, will pick up the bag and drop it under your tree just as everyone assembles there Christmas morning. If anyone is interested, it would fit nicely under my tree.

**Next SLO Vettes Meeting: Sunday, January 19
Casa Mirador, Santa Rosa Creek Road, the Dallons' Home
Meet & Greet, 1:00 PM - Meeting begins at 1:30 PM**



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - CRAIG BRICKER

VICE-PRESIDENT - BOB FURSTER

SECRETARY - LISA KLOCKENTEGER

TREASURER - JAN DALLONS

EVENTS - VACANT, PRESIDENT
CRAIG FILLING IN

NCM AMBASSADOR - DON ALLEN

SUNSHINE/HISTORIAN -
JEANNE ALLEN

MERCHANDIZE - JAN DALLONS

WEBMASTER - JON DALLONS

NEWSLETTER - RUSS SURBER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Page 3-4
Vice President's Message	Page 4-6
Minutes for November Meeting	Page 6-8
Events Chairs's Message	Page 8-9
NCM Ambassador's Report	Page 9-19
Sunshine Report	Page 20
Tech Talk - A Guide to Properly Washing your Vehicle	Page 21-28
Stories of Corvette Racing	Page 29
The Final Word	Page 30-31
January Events Planning Meeting Flyer	Page 32



As we close out the year 2024, I'm pleased to share with everyone that beginning in 2025, the open position of Events Chairperson has been filled. However, before I share with you the board changes for next year which were announced at our November monthly meeting, there was another topic at our November meeting that was shared with everyone in attendance - remembering our Veterans. It's always good to hear our members stories of serving our nation in the different armed forces. SLO Vettes had representation from all branches of the military – Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. This included a two members whose parents were in the military (I believe Navy & Air Force) and they grew up on or near military bases here in the states or over-seas. Whether you were actively in the service or a family member of someone who was, thank you for serving and thanks for everyone who shared their story with us at the November meeting.

As most everyone knows, SLO Vettes has been without an Events Chairperson this year. This position had been vacant while we waited for someone to step up and accept this position. As with many things in life, we have to be patient, and then things will finally fall into place. That's exactly what happened. Bob Furster has volunteered to accept the Events Chairperson. Below are the SLO Vettes Board of Directors for 2025:

President – Craig Bricker
Vice President - Membership – Doug Williamson
Secretary – Denise Surber
Treasurer – Jan Dallons
Events Chairperson – Bob Furster

1) VP Membership - Doug Williamson has volunteered to re-join the Board and will be replacing Bob Furster as VP Membership. Doug held this position when I joined SLO Vettes back in July of 2021. Thank you, Doug, for stepping up and volunteering!!

2) Secretary – Denise Surber has volunteered to re-join the Board as our Secretary. This is Denise's second time being Secretary. Denise is replacing Lisa Klockentegar who served as our secretary for five years. Lisa has done an outstanding job as Secretary but has decided it was time to take a break. Thank you, Lisa for representing SLO Vettes as our Secretary for the last five years! And thank you Denise for stepping up and volunteering!!

3) Treasurer – Jan Dallons will remain as Treasurer. Thank you, Jan, for staying on the board as our Treasurer!!

4) Events Chairperson - Bob Furster will remain on the Board but will transition from VP Membership to our Events Chairperson. If it were not for Bob stepping up and volunteering to accept the position of Events Chairperson, we might have gone another year with this position being vacant. Thank you, Bob, for stepping up and volunteering!!

As for President of SLO Vettes, I will remain as President for 2025 but will step down at the end of next year.

Don't forget our annual Events Planning meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th at 1:00 PM at the home of Jon and Jan Dallons. More to follow on this in early January.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Stay safe, drive safe, and enjoy your Corvette.

Craig Bricker
President
SLO Vettes
805-471-2945



Hello to all you Corvette enthusiasts! As of November 27, 2024 our membership remains at 53 memberships with 95 members and 59 Corvettes. I want to give a warm welcome to our newest members which are: Chris and Robyn Kilpatrick, John and Beth Schroeder, Brian and Debbie Kaub, and Rick Phinney & Julie Diggers. Hard to believe we are creeping up on that 100 members mark. The future for this club certainly looks bright.

This will be my last article as your Vice President! After a year without an event coordinator, I decided I would better serve the membership as an Event Coordinator. Doug Williamson will be taking the VP spot and I'm happy he has stepped up..again. I really hope some of the new members will consider taking on so club business in the near future as it really does not take much time, and I know some of the long term members are getting a bit burnt out. With that said I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving

and an wonderful Holidays! I will leave you with a little Christmas Corvette Rhyme.
Nope, not the original author.

’Twas the Night Before Christmas – Corvette Style

’Twas the night before Christmas and out in the garage,
There wasn’t a trace of a Honda, Toyota, or Dodge.
The presents were wrapped and the lights were all lit,
So I figured I’d mess with my classic Corvette for a bit.

I popped the release and lifted the hood,
When a deep voice behind me said “looks pretty good.”
Well, as you can imagine, I turned mighty quick,
And there, by the workbench, stood good ol Saint Nick!

We stood there a bit, not too sure what to say,
Then he said “don’t suppose that you’d trade for my sleigh?
“No way, Santa” I said with a grin,
“But if you’ve got the time we can go for a spin!”

His round little mouth, all tied up like a bow,
Turned into a smile and he said “Sure! Let’s go!!”
So as not to disturb all the neighbors’ retreat,
We quietly pushed the Vette out to the street,

Then, taking our places to coast down the hill,
I turned on the key and I let the clutch spill.
The sound that erupted took him quite by surprise,
But he liked it a lot, by the look in his eyes.

With tires a’ screaming and side pipes aglow,
We headed on out to where the hot rodders go.
And Santa’s grin widened, approaching his ears,
With every shift up as I banged through the gears.

Then he yelled “can’t recall when I’ve felt so alive!”
So I backed off the gas and asked Santa if he wanted to drive.
Ol Santa was stunned when I gave him the keys,
When he walked past the headlights he shook at the knees!

The Corvette exploded with side exhaust sound!
And when Santa let out the clutch and the tires shook the ground!

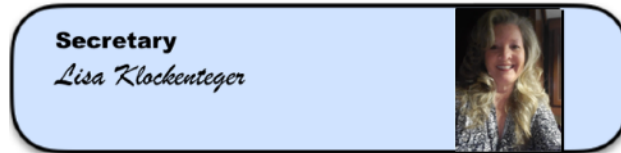
Power shift into second, again into third!
I sat there just watching, at loss for a word,

Then I heard him exclaim as we blasted from sight,
“Merry Christmas to all, it’s one hell of a night!!!”

Have a great month, hope to see some of you at our events and be safe out there,
enjoy life... drive a Corvette.

Bob Furster

VP/Membership



SLO Vettes November Meeting

Date: 11-8-2024

Location: SLO Chevy

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Club Attendees: 25

All Board Members & Committee Chairs present except Jan Dallons.

President, Craig Bricker:

Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He then introduced our **New Members** that were present in the meeting:

1. Chris & Robyn Kilpatrick from Morro Bay. They own a Red 2004 ZO
2. John & Beth Schroeder from Shell Beach. They own a Gray 2023 C8

Craig reviewed the new Board Members for 2025. Due to lack of **new** volunteer Board Members there will not be a vote for the upcoming 2025 Board. The following list of people will be on our new 2025 SLO Vettes Board of Directors:

President: Craig Bricker (2025 will be his last year)

V.P. Membership: Doug Williamson

Secretary: Denise Surber

Treasurer: Jan Dallons

Events: Bob Furster

All the above people have held these positions in the past. We encourage additional names to add to this list at the end of 2025. If anyone has a desire to be put on this list

please let us know. None of these positions are difficult. In fact it is a great way to get to know the members and have fun while doing it. Another notable point is that we can share some of these positions. An example is the Events Chair. That was proven by Beth and Bonnie in 2022/23, They did a phenomenal job and we all enjoyed their wonderful events.

Our Q & A this month was two fold:

1. Veteran's Day is fast approaching. Who in our group tonight have served in the Military?
 2. Thanksgiving will be here soon. What are your plans for the day? And favorite dish?
- These questions brought out a lot of fun and interesting responses from our members.

VP Membership, Bob Furster:

This will be Bob's last night to report on Membership for the club. He will be running the Events Chair in 2025.

Updated Roster:

Memberships: 53

Members: 95

Cars: 59

Impressive numbers and so close to our goal of 100 members!!

October Minutes by Secretary Pro Tem Denise Surber:

(Lisa Klockenteger not present at September mtg)

No changes or corrections made on the September secretary notes. A Motion was made by Denise Surber to accept the September Secretary notes and seconded by Scott Randle. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: by Treasurer Pro Tem, Denise Surber (Jan Dallons not present)

Denise reported on Jan Dallons figures for P & L Budget vs Actual Jan. 1, 2024 thru Dec. 2024 and second report for P & L Budget vs Actual months of Oct. 11 thru Nov. 8, 2024. A Motion was made to accept reports as written by Dave Naumann and seconded by Jose Alvarez. The motion was carried unanimously.

Events Chair: Craig Bricker spoke on behalf of the empty chair (soon to be held by Bob Furster)

November 9th Event --- Toy Run – 15 cars are signed up to go

November 16th Event --- Ragged Point

December 7th Event --- Christmas Party at Morro Bay Inn

Sunshine, Jeanne Allen:

Please see report.

Museum Ambassador, Don Allen:

Corvette is the Number One selling sports car for the UNDER 30 age group.

Tech Talk, Art MacCarly & Don Allen:

The focus on these articles is to help our members with problems they may have or have heard about with their Corvettes. If you are having difficult issues with your car Art & Don want to hear about it. They may have some good information to share. Nothing to report this month.

Corvette Racing, Russ Surber

See Russ Surber's report.

Merchandize, Jan Dallons:

Jan was not present this meeting. If you want a new jacket or cold weather shirt, call Jan for information.

Old News

Nothing to report

New News

Nothing to report

Newsletter, Russ Surber

Please turn in all articles and reports by November 27th

50/50 \$70 - Jeanne Allen won the prize \$35. Congrats to Jeanne!!

Next Monthly Meeting:

Annual Meeting January 19, 2025 at the home of the Dallons.

There is no meeting in December except the Annual Christmas party.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30pm

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Klockenteger

lisaklockenteger@gmail.com

Events

*Craig Bricker, Bob Furster, Harold Davis,
& Don Allen - The Committee*

With 2025 right around the corner, we already have our first meeting of the year scheduled. This will be our Events Planning Meeting which will be held at the home of Jon and Jan Dallons on Sunday, January 19th at 1:00 PM. Lunch will be served and the club will be picking up the tab. At this meeting, our new Events Chairperson, Bob Furster, will be taking the lead on our events for 2025. However, it is not Bob's responsibility as Events Chairperson to plan the events. We need everyone's input on

ideas for events that the club would like to plan for the upcoming year and we need members to step up and take the lead on the events.

A reminder email will be sent out in early January, but **“save the date” -- January 19th.**

Hope to see everyone at this meeting.



National Corvette Museum Update



Greetings SLO Vette members. It is hard to believe that 2024 has flashed by and the annual Christmas Party is up next. It has been a wonderful year for our family, for Corvette, and for our club family. We are already looking forward to more events and fun times in 2025.

Speaking of the Christmas Party, if you have an opportunity to stop by, either before or after the event, be sure and include a side trip past Bob and Lori Furster's home in Los Osos. They go all out in decorating their home for the holidays and this year's showing raises the bar by several notches. You will be amazed at the ingenuity and engineering that went into the design. You will not be disappointed.

If we don't get to see you sooner, we look forward to getting together at the Events Planning Meeting in January.

Museum News

Events



Vets and Vettes by Mobil 1 Celebration

This event provides veterans, servicemen and women, and supporters a welcoming space to connect, share stories, and celebrate their experiences together. The celebration began November 6 with an exciting half-day at the NCM Motorsports Park, where a complimentary lunch was served to all participants. On Friday and Saturday, the festivities continued with exhilarating road tours, a parade, a special luncheon and a dinner banquet. [Vets 'n Vettes Presented by Mobil 1 - National Corvette Museum](#)

Here is a little bit of history to show the connection between our service folks and the Corvette as reported by Scott Kolecki in his book, *Corvette Concept Cars*.

"The birth of the Corvette came about as a byproduct of soldiers returning home after serving their country. The 1953 Corvette, designed by Harley Earl, was developed in response to the large number of two-door sports convertibles that soldiers were bringing back with them to the United States after being stationed in Europe. Since there was no American counterpart to cars being built by companies like Jaguar and Mercedes, Chevrolet decided to build one."

And the Corvette was born.

Since that time, the Corvette has become a cornerstone of the American Dream. For soldiers serving in the military, it has been an iconic symbol of freedom, and an objective to strive for while serving in their military careers.”

[The Connection Between Corvette, Country, Veterans, And Patriotism](#)

New Exhibits

1954 Corvette once owned by the inimitable Jerry Lee Lewis.



Jerry Lee Lewis, a pioneer of Rock ‘n’ Roll, was known for his wild, high-energy performances—often playing piano with his fists, elbows, and even feet. His hits included “Great Balls of Fire” and “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On.”

Lewis owned multiple Corvettes throughout his life, yet this one’s story is especially unique. Repossessed by the IRS in 1980, it disappeared from public view until it resurfaced in 2023. It is now on display at the

NCM in the newest exhibit, *Pop Culture and Corvette: An American Love Affair*.

Diecast Collectors



If you are a diecast diehard, a Corvette lover, and a Major League Baseball fan, you can celebrate all three with these new releases. These diecasts celebrate both the Yankees vs. Dodgers with 1953 and 1963 Corvette Models.



The 1953 Yankees-themed Corvette diecast recalls a time when the New York Yankees bested the (then Brooklyn) Dodgers, capturing the spirit of a powerhouse Yankees team that dominated the diamond. Ten years later, the tables turned. The 1963 Dodgers-themed Corvette diecast celebrates the Dodgers’ redemption, when they swept the

Yankees in the World Series, ushering in a new era for the franchise. For more info, go to: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/los-angeles-dodgers-and-new-york-yankees-world-series-corvette-diecasts/>

Astronaut Jim Lovell's 1968 Corvette



During the peak of the Space Race, America's bravest astronauts fueled their need for speed in Corvettes, thanks to a unique partnership with [General Motors](#). For just \$1 a year, space heroes like Jim Lovell chose Corvettes from Jim Rathmann's dealership to match their spirit of adventure. Lovell's own 1968 Silverstone Silver Corvette, now on display, tells the story of a man who orbited the Moon and defied the odds during the ill-fated Apollo 13 flight. Experience this piece of history in 'Pop

Culture and Corvettes: An American Love Affair'.

For more info, go to: [1968 Jim Lovell Corvette and Apollo Program Artifacts - National Corvette Museum](#)

New NCM Delivery Option: The Ed and Shari Glazer Family Corvette Delivery Program



One of Ed Glazer's fondest childhood memories is accompanying his father Malcolm to pick up their first Corvette, a silver C4. Up until 1983, Malcolm Glazer had always purchased Cadillacs. However, in 1983, Malcolm, always keen on teaching his sons valuable business lessons, challenged 13-year-old Ed. He told him that if he could negotiate a good deal all by himself with local Chevy dealers to trade in his Cadillac Seville for a new C4 Corvette, he would buy one.

Living in Rochester, NY, Ed called every dealer in Rochester, Buffalo, and Syracuse to find the best deal for his father. He finally succeeded at a dealership in Syracuse, convincing the salesman to drive 90 miles to inspect the Cadillac and finalize the trade. When the salesman arrived, he asked to meet the "Mr. Glazer" he had spoken to on the phone, not realizing he had been dealing with a 13-year-old. A few days later, Ed and

his dad drove together to pick up their first new Corvette. This unforgettable father-son experience sparked Ed's lifelong love for the Corvette.

Since taking delivery of his first Corvette in 1999, Ed has owned a new Corvette almost every year, including several delivered personally at the National Corvette Museum. Notably, he even won a brand-new Z06 in a National Corvette Museum raffle.

Sadly, Malcolm Glazer passed away in 2014. In honor of his father, Ed created the Ed and Shari Glazer Family Corvette Delivery Program. He hopes other families can share the incredible joy of taking delivery of a new Corvette with a loved one at the National Corvette Museum. The Glazer family owns the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Manchester United.

Here are the features of the program.

Reader-Board

To make the moment stand out, a personalized reader board will be on display beside your Corvette delivery bay, proudly identifying this as a Glazer Family Delivery.

Stingray Grill Kid's Meal

Enjoy one free meal from the children's menu at our popular on-property restaurant, the Stingray Grill. It's the perfect pit stop for the little Corvette enthusiasts, offering delicious bites in the heart of the Museum, just steps away from Corvette Boulevard.

Delivery Baseball Cap

As part of the delivery experience, recipients will receive a branded baseball cap, allowing them to proudly display their passion and excitement during the delivery process.

Corvette Store Gift Card

Let your child and grandchild embrace the Corvette lifestyle! Every Glazer Family Delivery includes a \$50 Corvette Store gift card, giving you the freedom to choose from a variety of Corvette-branded items and gear. It's the perfect way to share the passion for America's Sports Car with the next generation.

Corvette Simulator Experience

Start your engines and get ready to race! Every delivery includes admission to our cutting-edge Corvette Simulators, where you can feel the thrill of the track. For safety, participants must meet the 48" height requirement to race.

Museum Delivery Photo

The perfect keepsake to remember the moment your family joined the legacy of America's Sports Car. Our delivery photographers will capture every detail of your special day, providing a family photo to commemorate the excitement of your Corvette delivery experience.

National Corvette Museum Scavenger Hunt

Immerse your family in the rich history of America's Sports Car with a National Corvette Museum Scavenger Hunt! Created by our Education team, this engaging experience is the perfect way to bring Corvette history to life during your delivery, offering fun and discovery for all ages as you explore the Museum.

Glazer Family Delivery Postcard

Share your unforgettable Corvette delivery memories with friends and family and let them experience the rich history of America's Sports Car through your eyes. From iconic models to legendary stories, you'll share a piece of your Corvette legacy.

For more information, email rod.keller@corvettemuseum.org

Raffles

Below are all the currently active raffles. For additional information and rules regarding National Corvette Museum raffles including how to order tickets and to view the number of tickets remaining available in real time, go to <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org>. The cars will be raffled off on time regardless if all the tickets are sold. I wish you the best of luck and hope to see photos of you picking up your prize at the Museum.



2025 Arctic White Corvette Convertible
12/5/2024
Price: \$200.00 Tickets: 1500



2025 Arctic Torch Red Corvette Coupe
12/19/2024
Price: \$100.00 Tickets: 2000



2025 Riptide Blue Corvette E-Ray
Convertible 1/16/2025
Price: \$300.00 Tickets: 1994



2025 Arctic White Corvette Coupe
4/26/2025
Price: \$20.00 Unlimited Raffle

Assembly Plant Update

2024 Corvette Model Year Final Statistics

GM has just released the end-of-year production tallies and there were few surprises. 42,934 Corvettes were built, of which 72% were base model Stingrays. Coupes (56%) were preferred over convertibles (44%). White was the most popular paint color and black was the most popular interior. Accelerate Yellow was the least popular exterior and Artemis Dipped (dark, rich green hues representing the Greek goddess of the hunt and vegetation, hence the dark olive green tones) was the least popular interior color at .5%. To see all the stats, go to: [2024 Corvette Model Year Final Statistics - Corvette Museum](#)

Orders for ZR1s Starting in February 2025

According to Rick “Corvette” Conti of Coughlin Corvette in Pataskala, OH., GM will open up the ordering system for 2025 ZR1s next February. Pricing should be out in January with manufacturing to begin in March. Who among us will be the first to get one? [\[VIDEO\] Corvette ZR1 Ordering to Commence in February 2025 - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

Rumors and Tidbits

Could a C8 Zora have a Manual Transmission?



Russ, this will be music to your ears. Mike, a YouTuber known as “Brink of Speed” seems to think it is. In this video he claims to have a source in GM, a high-up engineer, that has driven such a beast. The Zora is rumored to have the ZR1 (1064 hp) engine supplemented by at least one electric motor (like the E-Ray) driving the front wheels. The engineer says it is the only one in existence with a manual trans. Maybe

the current DCT transmission in the ZR1 isn’t strong enough for the Zora? For more info, go to: [BREAKING VIDEO: "GM Leaked! C8 ZORA To Have A 7-Speed Manual!"](#)

Top Secret Work at the Assembly Plant: Maybe Changes Coming to Corvette's Dash and Wall of Buttons?

Rumors have it that recently, a group of BGAP employees referred to as transition team workers took over the install station where the current instrument panel is installed on the assembly line. Workers from this workstation were not included in this team. Whatever they were working on was hidden under a cover, and it was further blocked by the number of bodies surrounding the area. To us this sounds like it's either a fitment test or it could be testing the process and equipment required to install a new dash.

A second rumor details what might have been under that cloth camouflage. This tip comes from another insider who says look to the 33-inch IP on the 2025 Cadillac CT5-V Blackwing. This is a new addition for the Blackwing and apparently was originally planned for a 2024 rollout but got delayed by a year. Like the Corvette, the Blackwing retains physical buttons for the HVAC controls which are situated under the right side of the IP screen.

These expansive screens appear to be a new trend in automotive design. This change could also mean that GM's Super Cruise with its hands-free driver assistance technology is coming to the Corvette. Now that the Corvette has the emergency braking, lane assist and other "driver-enhancing" technologies in the big 2024 model year update, Super Cruise might be the next step. [RUMOR: 2026 Corvette Interior to Get 1 Huge Screen, Deletes the Great Wall of Buttons - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

Corvette C8 is a Success at Targeting a Younger Buyer

GM designed the C8 for two reasons. The front engine design had run its course on the racing circuit and a mid-engine design was needed for improved performance. The second reason was to appeal to a younger customer for future sales. GM has succeeded in both endeavors.

The latest insight was provided by Corvette marketing manager Harlan Charles, who recently spoke with *GM Authority* Executive Editor Alex Luft in an interview. During the interview, Luft asked Charles if the C8 Corvette had provided any surprises with regard to customer demographics, given that at this point, GM unveiled the mid-engine Vette more than five years ago.

"We're getting a whole new generation of customers," Charles told *GM Authority*. "We're the number one sports car for buyers under the age of 35 [sic]. Our average age buyer dropped about seven years."

Indeed, that's a huge drop when it comes to the average customer age, especially for a nameplate that has a reputation for ownership by those undergoing a mid-life crisis while wearing New Balance shoes.

[Corvette C8 Dropped Average Buyer Age Like A Rock](#)

Drive Your Corvette on a guided tour of Route 66 in 2025



The fabled “Mother Road” is a bucket-list trip for millions of people. Be one of the Road Warriors that make the dream a reality! Imagine hitting the pavement on this 13-day trip of a lifetime with zero planning required.

Starting in Chicago, you'll travel in a caravan of no more than 15 cars with turn-by-turn directions, suggested photo stops, dozens and dozens of included activities, and a tour guide with years of Route 66 experience for 13 days of unforgettable fun.

You bring the car or truck of your choice. We'll do the rest.

2025 Dates:

May 24-June 5 (90% full)

June 7-19 (**WEST TO EAST- THIS TRIP STARTS IN LA AND ENDS IN CHICAGO**) (25% full)

June 21-July 3 (25% full)

Sept 6-18 (25% full)

Sept 20-Oct 2 (10% full)

2024 and 2025 Pricing Per Person:

\$2650 per person for dual occupancy (\$5300 total), \$3250 per person for single occupancy

Itinerary Basics at a Glance

Trip Start: Chicago, IL

Trip End: Los Angeles, CA

States: 8 (IL, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, AZ, CA)

Mileage: Approx. 2,400

Day 1: Chicago, IL, **Day 2:** Chicago to Litchfield, IL, **Day 3:** Litchfield to St. Louis, **Day 4:** St. Louis to Springfield, MO, **Day 5:** Springfield to OKC, **Day 6:** Oklahoma City, **Day 7:** OKC to Amarillo, **Day 8:** Amarillo to Albuquerque, **Day 9:** Santa Fe Day Trip, **Day 10:** ABQ to Winslow, AZ, **Day 11:** Winslow to Grand Canyon to Williams, AZ, **Day 12:** Williams to Barstow, CA, **Day 13:** Barstow to LA

What's included

All hotel accommodations

- 13 nights of quality hotels including 2 historic hotels!

- 13 meals

- 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

- All group activities

- Multiple museums, 3 national parks, tons of old filling stations, and more!

- Guide in lead car

- Route 66 expert guiding you the whole way to LA

- Trip tote bag, All parking fees and highway tolls, Souvenir-quality guidebook, Guided tour of Santa Fe, NM, On-the-road snacks/water, Custom Spotify music playlists, shuttle buses in STL and LA

Check out all the info:

[Route 66 Guided Car Caravans in Chicago, IL, USA](#)

[Drive Your Corvette on Route 66 in 2025 with a Guided Tour from Two Lane America - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

Corvette ZR1 to Pace Indy 500 in 2025

In a surprise announcement from Chevrolet and Fox Sports during an NFL Pregame Show we were told that Pro Football Hall of Famer and Fox NFL Analyst Michael Strahan will be driving a 2025 Corvette ZR1, which has been named the official pace car for the 109th Indianapolis 500. Fox Sports will be carrying all 17 NTT IndyCar Series races throughout the season. The official pace car livery will be unveiled at a later date.

In Closing

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

Don Allen, National Corvette Museum Ambassador, SLO Vettes



Sunshine Report

Jeanne Allen



***December/January
Sunshine Report
By
Jeanne Allen***

Bob Babineau	12/1
Marty Cochran	12/3
John Beaman	12/6
Beth Collins	12/10
Ron Eichelberger	12/13
Floyd Owens	12/15
Doug Lyon	12/17
Bonnie Babineau	12/26
Denise Williamson	12/30

Lee Carillo	1/1
Terry Benson	1/7
Mike Chitwood	1/10
Art MacCarley	1/10
Sherry Vivas	1/16
Li Randle	1/17
Ardith Davis	1/24



Gerry and Anna Lopez	12/19
Bill and Grace Nagel	12/30

Dale and Suzanne Comer	1/27
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Tech Talk
Art MacCarley
& *Don Allen*



Corvette Tech Talk

Art MacCarley and Don Allen

Season 2 Episode 9: Tips on Car Washing



In previous articles we have suggested how to clean your engine compartment without fear of damaging any of the expensive components living under the hood. The attached article is a follow-up piece to advise you how to wash your prized Corvette (or any car) without damaging the surfaces and still achieve the best results possible.

We would offer one reminder. For those of us so fortunate to own an older Corvette, please note that fiberglass bodywork is softer and more prone to stress cracks because it is flexible. After decades fiberglass degrades from solar UV which greatly reduces its strength so just be careful not to use too much scrubbing pressure.

While we did not write the article, author Virgil Miller has kindly granted permission for the information to be shared with SLO Vette members in our newsletter.



Corvettes of Bakersfield (COB) is a charity organization and among its several benefactors is a scholarship program for students enrolled in Bakersfield College's vocational Automotive Technology Program. One of the classes included in the program is the Automotive Detailing Course in which students learn how to restore cars and trucks to like-new condition. Upon successful completion, students receive a certificate that they can include in their resume when applying for employment. The College opened the class to COB members and several enrolled.



Virgil Miller was one of the participants and he shared some of his new-found knowledge with COB members by writing this article. We think Virgil says it best when he wrote, "If you're looking to learn the best methods for preserving your car's paintwork while giving it a professional shine, this guide is for you."

Another COB member, Adrian Medina also took the class and during a recent COB monthly meeting he added some valuable directions as to how to use, wash, and maintain your microfiber towels. Like Virgil, Adrian reported having excellent results with the towels and other cleaning products he used during the class that are sold by The Rag Company. Adrian felt the product's washing instructions from the company's website should be followed regardless of the brand of microfiber towels you use. We have included the rules as listed on the website.

Microfiber Towel Care Instructions

Always wash new microfiber towels prior to first use to remove any loose factory production fibers.

Always wash newer black, orange, and red colored towels separately from lighter colored towels to avoid any risk of bleeding.

Machine Wash in Warm Water with a Mild, Clean-Rinsing Liquid Detergent that is as Free of Dyes and Perfumes as Possible. Do not exceed 104°F (40°C) at the risk of damaging the fibers leaving them much less effective.

Tumble Dry Low Heat / No Heat or Hang to Dry.

Do NOT Iron.

Do NOT Use Any Fabric Softener as this Clogs the Microfibers and Reduces Performance.

Do NOT Use Chlorine Bleach as this Prematurely Breaks Down the Fibers and Reduces/Eliminates the Valuable Dust & Dirt Collecting Electrical Charge of Microfiber.

ONLY Wash with other Non-Linting Materials (NO Cotton!) to Maintain Proper Water and Dirt-Gripping Properties and Lint-Free Characteristics.

SORT Microfiber Towels Similar to Your Regular Laundry Process: DON'T Wash Brightly Colored (Red, Orange) or Black Towels with Lightly Colored (Light Blue, Yellow) or White Towels as Bleeding May Occur with Newer Towels.

ADVICE: Keep used/dirty microfiber towels in a separate bin from your regular laundry to reduce the risk of accidentally damaging your valuable microfiber by washing them together.

For more information from The Rag Company, go to: [Microfiber Care Instructions | The Rag Company](#)

We hope you will enjoy Virgil's article.

A Guide to Properly Washing Your Vehicle

By Virgil Miller, Certified Detailer with Insights from Andrew Haney's Automotive

Detailing Course



This article is a culmination of the valuable knowledge I gained while taking an automotive detailing course under the expert guidance of instructor Andrew Haney at Bakersfield College. Some of the content here is drawn directly from the course material, providing foundational insights into how to effectively clean the exterior of your vehicle and maintain its appearance. If you're looking to learn the best methods for preserving your car's paintwork while giving it a professional shine, this guide is for you.

Do You Know? The Hidden Dangers of Improper Washing

One of the most common ways vehicles acquire unsightly swirls and scratches is during the washing process itself. Products that aren't designed for automotive paint, combined with improper techniques, can cause significant damage—sometimes in just one wash. Consider the example of a conveyor-driven car wash: while convenient, these washes often drag dirt and grime from the vehicles ahead of you across your car's delicate paint surface. Add to that the fact that these car washes recycle water, which may be filtered but often isn't replaced frequently enough, and it's easy to see why a quick wash could end up harming your vehicle.

The Wrong Way to Wash Your Car

There are several common practices that can damage your vehicle's exterior, often unknowingly. Here's a breakdown of what not to do:

1. *The Family Affair:* While it's fun to get the family involved in washing the car, children might not realize that they've dropped the sponge on the ground, picking up sand and dirt that will scratch the paint. If you involve kids, make sure they're educated on proper techniques and always have extra sponges and towels on hand.

2. *Fundraiser Washes:* Car washes organized as fundraisers often feature volunteers who are untrained in proper detailing techniques. If you're passionate about the cause, it's better to simply donate money rather than risk letting them wash your car.

3. *Automatic Car Washes:* While automated washes are quick and easy, the high-speed brushes and recycled water grind dirt into your paintwork, often leaving scratches and swirl marks. The risks of damage far outweigh the convenience.

The Correct Methods for a Flawless Finish

When it comes to washing your vehicle, you have several options, each designed to minimize damage while delivering a superior clean. While some methods may be more costly than others, you don't have to break the bank to achieve professional results. Based on the level of dirt and grime on your vehicle, you can choose between the following techniques:

1. Two-Bucket Wash
2. Foam Cannon (Garden Hose or Pressure Washer)
3. Pressure Washer Foam Cannon



Two-Bucket Wash: The Gold Standard

The two-bucket method is a tried-and-true technique that, when done properly, can significantly reduce the risk of adding scratches or swirl marks to your paint. Here's how to do it:

What You'll Need:

- Two buckets
- Two grit guards
- Microfiber wash mitt or sponge
- Neutral pH car wash soap
- Optional foam cannon
- High-quality microfiber drying towels

Step-by-Step Process:

1. **Rinse the Vehicle:** Begin by rinsing your vehicle with water to remove loose dirt and debris. A garden hose works fine, but if you're using a pressure washer, keep the pressure low to avoid damaging the paint.

2. Pre-Treatment (Bug and Tar Remover):



For stubborn contaminants like bugs or road tar, use a bug and tar remover while the vehicle is still wet (don't let it dry). Bug and tar removers contain solvents and cleaning agents designed to soften and loosen road tar and solidified bug carcasses. They can also be enzyme-based. You can use these products as a pre-treatment for washing or as a spot treatment. A few specialized sponges that assist with bug and tar removal are available if desired. Most bug and tar removers are also effective at removing bird droppings and road grime. To remove excessive road grime, using a degreaser may be needed.

3. **Two-Bucket Washing:**

The key to this method is using two separate buckets—one filled with soapy water and the other with clean rinse water. Place a grit guard at the bottom of each bucket to catch dirt and debris.



Grit guards are plastic devices about 2 1/2" tall and full of holes, which go into the bottom of your buckets.

After washing a section of the car, rinse your mitt in the rinse bucket to remove the dirt before dipping it back into the soapy water. This prevents transferring contaminants back onto the vehicle's surface.

4. **Foam Cannons:** For an added layer of protection, consider using a foam cannon.



Foam cannons coat the vehicle with a thick, lubricating layer of foam, which minimizes direct contact with the paint. The foam provides additional lubrication, reducing the chances of scratching. For heavier dirt, you can take that sponge or wash mitt and lightly go over each panel to loosen any tougher debris before rinsing. There are two main types: one for use with a garden hose and another for a pressure washer.

5. **Wheels and Tires:**

Always use a separate bucket and wash mitt for the wheels and tires. These areas are prone to brake dust and road grime, and using the same mitt on both the tires and the body can cause contamination.



6. **Rinse the Vehicle:** Thoroughly rinse the car with clean water, ensuring all soap and debris are removed.

7. **Drying the Vehicle:** The Key to a Spotless Finish

After washing, it's crucial to dry your car properly to avoid water spots, which are caused by mineral deposits. Unless you are using deionized water, you must dry your vehicle as soon as possible. Deionized water is water that is filtered to remove the minerals, which cause water spots. Since most of us don't have deionized water, we

need to use a special microfiber drying towel. These are very thick, soft, and absorbent towels.

The method you choose depends on your preference, but here are the most common techniques:

- **Towel Drying:**



Towel drying is by far the most common method. It is also the most damaging method depending on how and what you use. When drying with a towel, always wipe in one direction and flip or turn regularly. Avoid drying in circular motions; remember, we don't want to add swirl marks. Avoid terrycloth towels, paper towels, and chamois. Use a high-quality microfiber towel to gently dry your vehicle. The microfiber drying towels I use for cars are specifically made for dry and cost \$30+ each. Always make sure you use a microfiber towel that is large enough to dry the surface. These towels should be plush and soft and designed to dry. They shouldn't have any edging, which can cause scratching. I recommend having two or three towels on hand should you need to replace one during the drying. To prevent scratches, DO NOT continue using a towel that has been dropped on the floor. Also, do not apply force as you dry. We are simply drying water from the car, not trying to remove surface contamination. Check out the <https://theragcompany.com/>

- **Air Drying with a Blower:** A specialized car air blower is a great tool for drying, as it uses pressurized air to blow water out of nooks and crannies without touching the surface. Avoid using leaf blowers or other non-automotive blowers, as they aren't as effective and could introduce dirt.

- **Water Blade or Squeegee:** While a silicone water blade or squeegee can quickly remove excess water, this method is best avoided for regular use on the paint, as it can lead to scratches over time. However, it's suitable for glass surfaces or quick drying jobs.

- **Air Drying (Deionized Water):** If you have access to deionized water, you can let your vehicle air dry. Deionized water lacks the minerals that cause water spots, leaving you with a spotless finish. Deionized water filters are available, but they can be expensive.

Finishing Touches

Once your vehicle is clean and dry, apply a few finishing touches to really make it shine:

- **Clean the Glass and Chrome:** Use a dedicated microfiber towel and glass cleaner to clean the windows and chrome trim. Glass cleaner is also safe to use on chrome.
- **Tire Shine:** Apply a tire dressing to restore the deep black look of your tires. Be sure to use a tire brush to evenly distribute the product and wipe off any excess. Tire dressing comes in different sheens.
- **Detail Spray:** A quick detail spray can add an extra layer of protection and shine to your vehicle's paint. You just spray it on in small sections and wipe it down with a microfiber cloth. This product can also help reduce the amount of time required for your next wash.

Maintaining Your Equipment

To keep your washing gear in top condition, make sure to clean your microfiber towels after each use. Wash them in cold water with a clear laundry detergent and avoid using fabric softeners, which can damage the fibers. Air drying or machine dry on low heat is best to preserve their softness. High heat will damage microfiber towels.



Car Show Ready

For those looking to touch up their vehicle before a car show, a rinseless car wash spray is a quick and effective solution. Simply spray it on, wipe it off with a microfiber towel, and follow up with a detailing spray for a flawless, shiny finish.



Stories of Corvette Racing

Russ Surber



Well, the racing season has come to an end so we can all sit back and contemplate what might happen next year, with the two best teams running the Corvette Z06 GT3.R, Pratt Miller Racing and DXDT, now mixing it up in the same series, the IMSA Weathertech Championship. TF Sport, which runs its two Corvettes in the World Endurance Championship (WEC) series will be joined at the 24-Hours of Le Mans by Team AWA's #13 Z06 GT3.R, which won the invitation by winning the Bob Akin Award in the IMSA series. Meanwhile, in England, the British Steller Motorsports team will be fielding two Z06 GT3.R's in the British GT3 Championship. Steller Motorsports won the GT4 Championship in 2022 and believes the new Corvettes will be fighting for the title in the 2025 GT3 series.



Steller Motorsports Entry for British GT3 Championship Series



New DXTX Driver Robert Dickens

You may recall in my November column I wondered about Tommy Milner's status. He drove the 2024 IMSA season for Pratt Miller Racing, which loaned him to DXTX for the World Challenge Sports Car America series. With both teams now competing against each other Milner wouldn't be driving for both teams, and DXTX announced late in November that his seat in the #36 Z06 GT3.R would be taken by 35-year old Canadian driver Robert Wickens for five of the series races. In Wickens rookie season in the Indy Car Series he had an accident at the race at Pocono and sustained spinal cord injuries and a thoracic spinal fracture that left him a paraplegic. Through unbelievable dedication and hard work, Wickens returned to racing just three years after his Pocono accident, this time using hand controls. Since then he has won several races and the TCR championship in 2023. The following year he was runner up for the title. Wickens says, "My goal since returning to racing was to race in the IMSA Weathertech Series, so to tick that box with a limited schedule in 2025 is a huge step in achieving my goals. It was never going to be an easy task, but when great minds put their heads together anything is possible." I've put the full 2025 IMSA and WEC Schedules at the back of this issue.

Russ Surber, Racing Correspondent and sometime editor of this rag.

The Final Word

Russ Surber



First, a word about *Keepin' Track's* new format. For very selfish reasons, I decided to drop the two-column format. The new style format makes editing and assembling the newsletter much simpler. I'd very much appreciate hearing from you about the "new look," and if you find any distractions, problems, or even if you like it. I also made the print slightly larger for the same reason, it's just easier for me to read when I'm editing the newsletter for publication. I haven't decided if I'll keep this new format, I personally think the two column approach looks more "professional," if you will. We'll see, so let me know how you feel. We're also going to make a change in the Tech Talk column, which is one of the most interesting in *Keepin' Track*. Regular readers will know that it is a very readable, very understandable, column on how to do some otherwise highly technical work on your Corvette. That means that it takes a lot of time to write, and so the Tech Talk column will go from a monthly to an every-other-month or quarterly feature of *Keepin' Track*. We'll see how that works out over the course of the next year. Finally, let me remind you that *Keepin' Track* does not publish in January, so we'll see you on these pages next February.

Fall is very much in the air, and Winter is peeking around the corner to let us know he's there and ready to go. We had two inches of rain over the weekend before Thanksgiving. We live in a land that has been plagued by drought for eons, so any rain is welcome, even when it can cause problems. About five years ago just about this time of year one of our oaks, 300 years old by the arborist's guess, came down after heavy spring rains and then a wind storm. The oak soaked up the rain and sent it where it was needed, into the leaves and new growth at its crown. Heavy with all the water those leaves and branches carried, a micro-blast of wind brought her down, along with 85 feet of our fence and electricity for 45 houses in our neighborhood. All that said, we welcome the rain and all of the good it brings. By the way, as a bit of useless trivia, did you know that George Hearst, the father of William Randolph, bought his San Simeon Ranch in the 1860's when a drought along the Central Coast was so severe the cattlemen were driving their herds into the sea because they couldn't water them. He paid pennies on the dollar for the land. So when you read that climate change is causing our drought, history suggests that drought is simply part of the natural cycle for this area, and not an existential threat to our species.

Several months ago in this column I made mention of a mechanic I had found in Paso Robles who does excellent work and in whom I have complete confidence. Nick Rasmussen has opened his own business, called ***Nick's Specialty Automotive*** at 1228 11th Street, #104, in Paso. He can be reached at 805-221-5646 or on the web at nicksspecialtyauto.com. He is a relative of our fellow SLO Veters Dave & Kathy Naumann, and I can attest from personal experience that he knows his way around Corvettes and that he does exceptional work. So, if you live in north county and are

looking for a mechanic, give Nick a call and tell him you're a member of SLO Vettes. Even if you don't live in North County, he might be worth the drive over the Grade.

To bring this month's column to a close I want to note that in spite of the State being in horrible financial condition, with a deficit nearing \$45 billion, Governor Newsom has pledged that if President-elect Trump does eliminate the \$7,500 bonus new EV owners are eligible for, he will ask the Legislature to pick up that slack. First, when you have to offer bonuses to people to buy something, perhaps something is fundamentally wrong with the product what ever it might be. Second, when you are as deeply in debt as our dear State, it probably isn't a good idea to give more money away to the middle and upper classes so they can demonstrate their virtue with an EV. And if people reply that that's just the cost of saving the planet, let's recall that a if California's carbon footprint dropped to zero January 1, 2025, the total impact on the world'd carbon footprint would be statistically insignificant. So, at some point we are going to have to ask ourselves how much are we willing to sacrifice to reduce the world's carbon footprint by 0.01%

On that cheery note, let me end by saying that Denise and I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that Christmas and the New Year bring you only joy and prosperity. We hope to see you at the Christmas Party on December 7, and at the annual Events Planning Party on January 19 at the Dallons, where we'll give our new Events Chair Bob Furster our ideas about things the Club might do in 2025. If you have any ideas, bring them along to share with the rest of us. I have a few and will be putting them forward, perhaps you do too.

Russ Surber, Editor
Keepin' Track, Official newsletter of SLO Vettes





Events Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 19 @ 1:00 PM

Jon & Jan Dallons
9885 Santa Rosa Creek Road
Templeton, CA

**Please RSVP with
The Surber's (805) 238-3150**

Directions to Casa Mirador
(Starting from the Junction of Hwys 101 & 46 West)

1. Travel West on Hwy 46 for 10 miles and turn right on Santa Rosa Creed Road.
2. Continue on Santa Rosa Creek Road for 3.6 miles and turn left into the driveway
3. Continue on driveway for 1 mile. Do not stop at the first house.
4. Call if you get lost (805) 238-5533

