



# Keepin' Track - SLO Vettes

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

*September Issue*

*Published on the first ay of each month, except January*

Cover Page

Monthly Newsletter

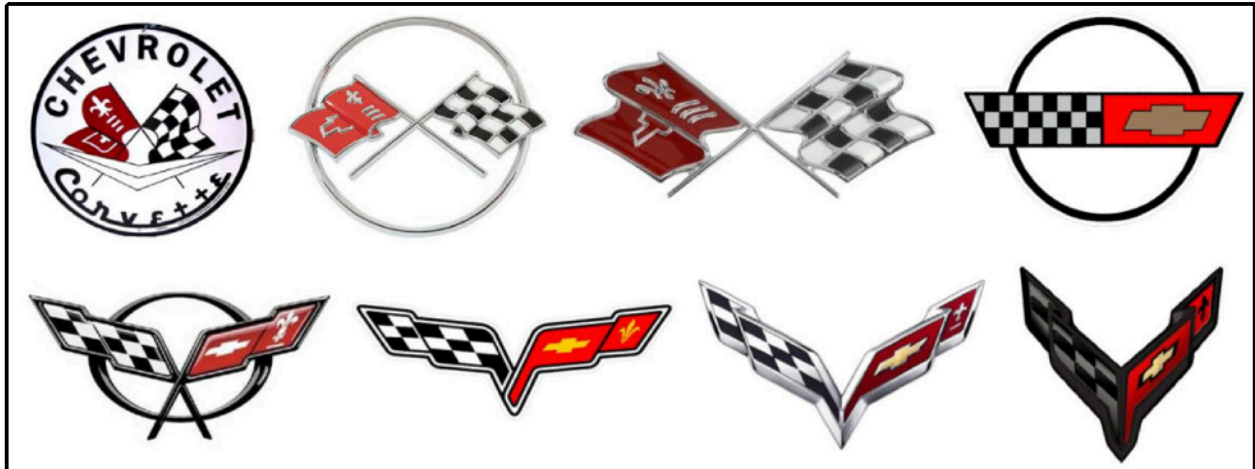
September 2024



## **We're Going to the Chapel, There's Going to be a Marriage**

These two happy newly-weds drove almost 500 miles to have their wedding in Las Vegas surrounded by dozens of Corvettes, dozens more of SLO Vette friends, and in the presence of none other than Elvis, himself. John & Lisa, may all of your days together be filled with only joy and happy anticipation of all the good things still to come. Love you.

**Next SLO Vettes Meeting: Friday, September 13  
Chevy of San Luis Obispo, 1423 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA  
Meet & Greet, 6:00 PM - Meeting begins at 6:30 PM**



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - CRAIG BRICKER

VICE-PRESIDENT - BOB FURSTER

SECRETARY - LISA KLOCKENTEGER

TREASURER - JAN DALLONS

EVENTS - VACANT, PRESIDENT  
CRAIG FILLING IN

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NCM AMBASSADOR - DON ALLEN

SUNSHINE/HISTORIAN -  
JEANNE ALLEN

MERCHANDIZE - JAN DALLONS

WEBMASTER - JON DALLONS

NEWSLETTER - RUSS SURBER

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**President**

*Craig Bricker*



We have all heard the saying “be nice to everyone because there is someone who knows someone that knows you and you never know when you will see that someone again”. This is especially true living on the Central Coast where this is a small community. With Rhonda and I being involved in SLO Vettes, we have met so many wonderful people locally and also at Corvette events in Monterey and in Laughlin over the last three years.

A few weeks ago, I was playing Pickleball on a Saturday afternoon in Pismo Beach and one of the players that I was playing with received a phone call from their friend who lived over in “the valley”. This person had two extra tickets to the Melodrama for that night and Rhonda and I accepted them. The play that night was a different play than the one that SLO Vettes are going to on September 14th. I asked my friend why their friend was over here on the Central Coast from “the valley” and she told me that her friend is in a car club, and they drove over here to attend the Melodrama. The next question was “what type of car club” and wouldn’t you know it was a Corvette car club. Rhonda and I attended the Melodrama that evening with at least 30 members of Central Valley Corvettes out of Fresno. In fact, Rhonda and I both remembered meeting a couple at a Corvette event in Laughlin back in 2023 who was at the Melodrama. Such a small world.

One other comment. For the past eight months, our car club has gone without an Event Chairperson/Chairpersons. This responsibility was taken over by me, Bob Furster, Don Allen and Harold Davis. However, all four of us have some other form of commitment with the club: Bob is the VP of Membership; Don contributes to the Newsletter; and Harold has his own event functions that he plans throughout the year for some 50-60 non-club members. SLO

Vettes needs someone to step up and help contribute to the club in the role as Event Chairperson for next year. This position can be shared and is a great way to meet and interact with more members of our club. If you have an interest in this position, please reach out to me. If you know how to send an email with an attachment, then you are fully qualified to be our Event Chairperson.

Hope to see you at the next event or meeting. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 13th.

Stay safe, drive safe, and enjoy your Corvette.

Craig Bricker  
President  
SLO Vettes  
805-471-2945

**Vice-President**

*Bob Furster*



Hello to all you Corvette enthusiasts! As of August 28, 2024 our membership has increased to 50 with 89 members and 56 Corvettes. Let’s all welcome our newest members; Rick Phinney and Julie Diggers. They have a 2015 Z06! Fingers crossed we will have another two members by next month. We are inching closer and closer to 100 members.

This month I will not be writing about any trivia. Why you ask? Well, as some know and others may not, I have been on the road for the past 7 days with the Southwest National Corvette Caravan making our way to Bowling Green, Kentucky along with fellow members Don and Jeanne Allen, and John and Lisa Fitzpatrick, we started in Pasadena and then traveled to Las Vegas (Henderson really), Bryce City, Utah, Greenwood Springs, Colorado, Colby, Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas, Cape Girardeau, Missouri and ending in Bowling Green, Kentucky home of the National Corvette Museum and Corvette production

plant. The final leg into Bowling Green had a string of Corvettes 500 long with a police escort to the Kentucky border. You wouldn't believe what it looks like to see nothing but Corvettes in front of you and in the rear view mirror as far as you can see. Next month I will give you a my take on the whole experience and whether or not you should consider the next National Caravan (2029).

On another note, after the first leg of the run in Henderson, Nevada two of our members tied the knot in Corvette style. John Fitzpatrick and Lisa Klockentegar exchanged vows in their Corvette surrounded by other Corvettes in the presence of the one and only Elvis Presley, well a close resemblance. The ceremony was not only unique and fun but touching as well. Each stated their own unique vows to each other and it was clear they came from their heart. It was a pleasure and honor to be part of the exchange of love and commitment.



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 August 2024 Meeting**

Date: August 9, 2024  
Location: Chevy SLO

**Call to Order: 6:30 pm**  
Club Attendees: 19 and 2 Guests

All Board Members present with the exception of Russ Surber.

### **President, Craig Bricker:**

Craig welcomed guests, Chris and Robin from Morro Bay. They own a C5 ZO6 Corvette. Thank you for coming and we look forward to seeing you again in the future. This months Q & A: What has been your favorite sporting event to watch in the Paris Olympic Games?

### **VP, Membership, Bob Furster:**

No changes from last month.

### **July Minutes by Secretary, Lisa Klockentegar:**

No changes or corrections noted. A Motion to approve the Minutes as written was made by Jan Dallons and seconded by Scott Randle. The Motion was carried unanimously.

\*\*A note from the Secretary: John and I thank everyone for their well wishes on our upcoming nuptials. See you all in September! Mr & Mrs Fitzpatrick

### **Treasurer Report, Jan Dallons:**

Two Reports were. Reviewed. First was the Profit & Loss vs Actual dated January through December 2024. Secondly, the Report for July 12 through August 9, 2024 was reviewed. A Motion to approve both reports was made by Beth Yudovin and seconded by Rhonda Bricker. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Events Chair, OPEN Position:**

*Harold Davis* reminded everyone about the Train ride coming up in Arroyo Grande. Bring cash for the ride. Small bills for approximate cost of \$6. Cost had actually changed due to the number of people. It has reduced the cost. Wow! In this day and age!! Cost going down. A nice change.

*Craig Bricker* reminded us about the upcoming Calendar of Events:

1. August 16 ---Hot El Camino Nites
2. Sept 14 ---Melodrama

3. September Mystery Tour ---12 Cars going – 3 openings still!!
4. Oct 12 – Paso Robles Pioneer Day Parade – Harold Davis
5. Nov 9 – Toy Run @ CHP office – more info to follow
6. Nov 16 – Ragged Point Run

**Sunshine, Jeanne Allen:**

See Report

**Tech Talk, Art MacCarly & Don Allen:**

No report this month.

**Ambassador, NCM, Don Allen:**

*Exciting news!*

National Corvette Caravan getting ready to take off on all points of the United States. Even Hawaii.

Currently there are 7,000 people registered to participate in this event. California SW will take off on its first leg from Pasadena on August 22 at 9am from the Elks Lodge on Colorado Blvd in downtown Pasadena. Approximately 200 cars will take off after the Checkered Flags are waved.

--Special Orders

You can now order special color combinations for your new car! D30 Option=Color Over Ride

There are going to be some unique combos out there!

--Be sure to read Don's report on all things Corvette on page 6 of the Newsletter.

**Webmaster, Jon Dallons:**

Jon is still working on putting pictures into the newly built website.

**Newsletter, Russ Surber: Standing in for Russ was Craig Bricker**

Please turn in all articles and reports by August 28<sup>th</sup>

**Merchandize, Jan Dallons:**

FYI: Jan is ordering some 2XL shirts for Men.

**50/50 \$68**

Winner was Lori Furster!! She won \$34!!

**Next Monthly Meeting September 13, 2024**

Location: Chevy SLO

Time: 6:00 pm Meet & Greet

September Meeting Begins: 6:30 pm Sharp!

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:23 pm**

Submitted by Your Secretary

Lisa Klockenteger

[lisaklockenteger@gmail.com](mailto:lisaklockenteger@gmail.com)

**Events**

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

Below are the SLO Vette events that are scheduled for the months of September, October and November:

1) Mystery Tour – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – **September, 27th, 28th and 29th** – Event is limited to only 15 cars. **Only three spots remaining.** Contact Jan Dallons at 805-712-111 to reserve your spot for this fun weekend event. A \$300.00 deposit is required.

2) Paso Robles Pioneer Day Parade with lunch to follow - **Saturday, October 12th** -- Email has been sent out. Please RSVP by September 14th.

3) Toy Drive – CHP office in San Luis Obispo with lunch afterwards - **Saturday, November 9th** -- More to follow.

4) Run to Ragged Point - **Saturday, November 16th** -- More to follow.

**Harold Davis Events:**

1) Cambria Scarecrow viewing and lunch at Ragged Point – **Saturday, October 26th** – more to follow.

# National Corvette Museum Update



Greetings everyone. When this month's newsletter hits the presses, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be in the rear-view mirror as Harold Davis would say. It certainly will be for the nearly 8000 registrants that will have attended as they travel back to all regions of the US, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and wherever else their journey started.

Some folks will be extending their road trip to visit family, friends, and other attractions. Of course, John and Lisa will be making the whole trip their honeymoon. Others will be racing home so they can relax from the hectic journey and the excitement they experienced at the many events.

We hope everyone makes it home safe and tells their Corvette friends to start gearing up for the 35<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Caravan coming

in 2029. It is never too early to start because all the last-minute preparation can be exhausting.

## Museum News

### Vets and Vettes by Mobil 1 Celebration

The next big event for the Museum is dedicated to the many who have served our country. The Vets and Vettes event provides veterans, servicemen and women, and supporters a welcoming space to connect, share stories, and celebrate their experiences together. The annual celebration begins November 6, 2024 with an exciting half-day at the NCM Motorsports Park, where a complimentary lunch will be served to all participants. On Friday and Saturday, the festivities continue with exhilarating road tours, a parade, a special luncheon and a dinner banquet. Registration is open now. Go to: [Vets 'n Vettes Presented by Mobil 1 - National Corvette Museum](https://www.corvettemuseum.org/vets-n-vettes)

## 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.



**2024 Black Corvette Z06 Convertible**  
**8/30/2024**

Price: **\$350.00** Tickets: 1994



**2024 Torch Red Corvette Coupe**  
**8/31/2024**  
Price: \$20.00 Tickets: Unlimited



**2024 Rapid Blue Corvette Coupe**  
**9/19/2024**  
Price: \$100.00 Tickets: 2000



**2025 Build Your Own Corvette or \$85,000**  
**10/24/2024**  
Price: \$250.00 Tickets: 1500

## Assembly Plant Update

### 2025 Corvette Pricing is Now Out

Z06 and E-Ray Coupes and Convertibles are going up by \$2,000 while the Stingray Coupes and Convertibles will maintain their same pricing from the 2024 model year. Stingray Coupe prices begin at \$69,995 while the Convertibles add another \$7000. The E-Ray Coupe and Convertible prices are now \$106,900 and \$113,900. The Z06 Coupe and Convertible prices have been raised to \$112,100 for the Coupe and \$119,100 for the Convertible. Again, these are starting prices and each are subject to the mandatory \$1,695 destination fee.

So far, the good news appears that these big price increases are only affecting the MSRP price as the three trim packages and most of the popular option prices appear to be carried over from 2024 as well. However, there are some changes to individual options but none appear to be extreme. A few option prices even went down. For example, you can now include the 15-spoke Bright Polished Wheels on your Stingray for \$3,495, a decrease of \$855.

For a detailed listing of all the price changes, go to: [2025 Corvette Pricing is Now Out - Z06 and E-Ray Get a \\$2K Price Increase \(Updated\) - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](https://corvetteblogger.com/2025-Corvette-Pricing-is-Now-Out-Z06-and-E-Ray-Get-a-$2K-Price-Increase-Updated-Corvette-Sales-News-Lifestyle/)

## Rumors and Tidbits

### How Powerful is the New ZR1?

As mentioned before, the new ZR1 is the most powerful engine ever developed for use in a road-ready car in the US. 1064 horsepower and 828 ft/lbs of torque to be exact. Enough for 9 second quarter mile times and a top speed of over 200 miles an hour.

Maybe a better example of the awesome power of this engine came out during a conversation with then Corvette Chief Engineer, Tadge Juechter. He revealed that

during development that the engine was being ran in a special high performance test machine and the engine actually jumped out of its mounting.

*“So yeah, this engine ripped up the dynos pretty good. So there’s parallel development of the engine and the dyno infrastructure here at General Motors. In fact, one engine escaped the dyno. It tore itself off the stand, it became completely displaced, actually breaking its moorings and so we had to repair the dyno. The engine was fine...put it back on the dyno and continued our work. We had re-engineered a lot of the support systems for the engine.”*

I guess that says it all. To see more, go to: [\[VIDEO\] The 2025 Corvette ZR1 Was So Powerful, It Broke GM's Dynos - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](#)

### **Remember Last Month’s Article: Is This the Sign of Things to Come?**

Last month I told you about some offerings by GM that might be considered an incentive to buy a new Corvette from an existing dealer’s inventory? It really wasn’t much of a deal but now I see that the saga continues this month.

GM is now offering the first cash rebate for buyers of the 2024 Corvette, but of course that comes with strings attached. Chevy is making this offer specifically for current owners of Camaros. If you own a 2010 Camaro or later, you can receive a cash rebate of \$2,500 when you purchase a new 2024 Corvette Stingray. You don’t have to sell or trade the Camaro; you only have to show that one is registered to you. I fail to see the relevance of owning a Camaro when it comes to getting a deal on a Corvette. As always, see your Chevrolet dealer for details.

While the scope of this rebate offer is very narrowly targeted to Camaro owners, it is nice to see that these kinds of offers are finally available for the 8th generation of America’s Favorite Sports Car. One discount

that Chevrolet has not yet offered for the C8 Corvette is Employee Pricing for those who work for General Motors. Hopefully that may come through soon as well.

[Chevrolet Offers First Cash Rebate for 2024 Corvette Stingray, But You Must Own This Chevy Model - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](#)

### **Other GM Corvette Incentives**

GM is offering up to a \$1500 rebate to existing lease customers when they lease a new Corvette. Special financing is being offered to qualified buyers and some dealers are offering a 10% discount on existing inventory of 2024 Stingray models.

### **GM is Finally Stepping Up to Fix C7 Z06 and Grand Sport Cracked Wheels**



One of the on-going sagas for owners of the C7 Corvette Z06 and Grand Sport is that it’s a known fact that the wheels that came with those cars had a propensity for cracking and breaking. For years, General Motors has shrugged off these requests for warranty repairs, stating that these issues were caused by impact damage with pot holes and other road debris. Lots of lawsuits have followed.

Letters are going to current or previous owners of C7 Corvette Z06s and Grand Sports about an extended warranty coverage and repair reimbursement program for those who have repaired their wheels. While GM is still not taking responsibility for the



manufacture of these inferior wheels, it looks like they are offering a way for those customers who were impacted to possibly make a new claim for reimbursement against this program.

Of course, the lawyers have set some conditions before anyone can get some assistance. To read about some of those requirements, go to: [GM is Offering Reimbursement for C7 Grand Sport and Z06 Owners who Fixed their Cracked Wheels - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](https://corvetteblogger.com/gm-offering-reimbursement-c7-grand-sport-z06-owners-fixed-cracked-wheels/)

### **Interesting Examples of Corvette Option Code D30 Color Overrides**

What is this option you ask? This is the special code that tells GM that you want a color combination that is not standard and included in the typical order availability. For just \$695, you can choose your own personal color choices of items such as exterior/interior combinations, seat cushion color/fabric combinations, seat belts, etc. For instance, you might like Cacti Green exterior with an Adrenalin Red interior and yellow seat belts. Let your imagination run wild.

Here is a video from a Corvette dealer where the salesman has collected a few examples of R30 overrides. Personally, I liked several of the choices and would suggest that GM designers need to think outside the box. Either include some of these in their palette or not charge a fee for the changes. Tell me what you think.

[\[VIDEO\] Color Combo Overrides for the C8 Corvette. Which is Your Favorite? - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](https://corvetteblogger.com/video-color-combo-overrides-c8-corvette-which-is-your-favorite/)

### **Is Ford Becoming the Police?**

**Ford has developed a "night drive mode" that limits vehicle speeds after dark.**

The nighttime speed limiter was disclosed by Ford in a patent application the automaker filed with the United States Patent and

Trademark Office (USPTO) back in August 2019. That application was just published by the USPTO on June 4 of this year.

Ford designed this feature with first responders in mind, according to the application. Emergencies happen day or night, the automaker notes, adding that the high-speed driving involved in getting to the scene of an emergency leaves less margin for error even for skilled drivers.

"While these first responders are generally trained in driving techniques for high-speed vehicle operation, there is still less time to react to situations on roadways when traveling at high speeds," the application reads. "This is particularly true at night and under inclement weather conditions."

The speed limiter would be triggered by a light sensor that would measure ambient light levels, but also communicate with a car's GPS and telematics systems to determine if it's actually nighttime or if lower light levels are due to inclement weather. In either case, the vehicle would be limited to a specific speed regardless of local speed limits unless the driver requests an override.

Speed limiters are already used in certain performance cars, and Volvo has been limiting all of its cars to 112 mph for the past few years in the name of safety. In 2023, New York lawmakers also proposed [mandated limiters for serial speeders](#). But we haven't seen the specific use case of night driving and emergency responders that Ford is discussing here.

**And now Ford is trying to patent a way for its cars to report speeding drivers to the police.**

A patent application from the automaker titled "Systems and Methods for Detecting Speeding Violations" was published by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Jul. 18 2024, and was originally filed by Ford Jan. 12, 2023.

In the application, Ford discusses using cars to monitor each other's speeds. If one car

detects that a nearby vehicle is being driven above the posted limit, it could use onboard cameras to photograph that vehicle. A report containing both speed data and images of the targeted vehicle could then be sent directly to a police car or roadside monitoring units via an Internet connection, according to Ford.

Using vehicles for speed surveillance would make cops' jobs easier, as they wouldn't have to quickly identify speeding violations and take off in pursuit, Ford notes in the application. It also means some of that work could be delegated to self-driving cars, which could be equipped to detect speeding violations, the automaker adds.

It's unclear what legal argument Ford would make should it try to implement this tech, as human police officers wouldn't be witnessing the alleged speeding being reported through the connected cars. Speed cameras already provide stationary enforcement of speed limits, but they can only issue tickets based on a vehicle's license plate number because they can't confirm who is driving.

A Ford spokesperson told Motor Authority, "The patent explicitly states this idea is specific for application in law enforcement vehicles, such as the Ford Police Interceptor, and it's a system that would automate a capability that law enforcement already have in use today, except this would utilize the built-in system and sensors in the vehicle. This patent does not state that driving data from customers' vehicles would be shared with law enforcement, which is what some media have incorrectly reported. And note, patent applications are intended to protect new ideas but aren't necessarily an indication of new business or product plans."

Our reading of the patent leaves unanswered questions about the limit and scope of its language—which seems to leave law enforcement use as one of many possible use cases.

[Ford looking at limiting vehicle speeds at night, regardless of driver \(motorauthority.com\)](#)

[Future Fords might detect speeding and report you to the cops \(motorauthority.com\)](#)

## Cool Corvette Spin-offs That Never Made It to Production



With more than seven decades of production so far, the Corvette has definitely made its place among the ranks of the greatest automotive models in history long ago. GM has also produced a handful of one-off concepts and various Corvette spinoffs that seemed promising, yet for various reasons, never quite came to fruition. Here are just a few examples



One model was the Corvette Impala - a large coupe with seating for five. The Corvette Impala was intended to gauge consumer interest in such a thing, but ultimately, those same buyers signaled that they were more interested in performance than having room for the whole family in their Corvettes, and the idea was ultimately scrapped.



The Corvette Nomad is another family-friendly machine that also explored the idea of expanding that particular lineup, transforming the sports car into a wagon that ultimately lent some of its styling cues to the production Bel Air in 1955. Today, the Corvette Nomad is still widely considered to be among the best-looking concepts ever made, and a handful of coachbuilders and DIY folks have copied the design and built their own versions.



The Corvette Corvair prototype made its first public appearance alongside the Nomad at Motorama in New York City, and featured some truly interesting bodywork out back. There, one can find a fastback-like roof design (shown above in the group photo)

with some jet-like styling cues, which were well received by the press and consumers alike. However, given the C1's slow sales at the time, the stylish Corvair never quite became a reality.

Photo credits: Chevrolet  
Sourced from the Corvette Forum

### In Closing

To learn more about the Museum, its 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](http://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*

*September Sunshine Report*  
*By*  
*Jeanne Allen*

Ron Berkel	9/4
Lori Furster	9/18
Vicky Pyle	9/28
Gerry Lopez	9/30

John and Cheryl Everett	9/15
Dick and Jeri Hart	9/15
Richard and Carolyn Smith	9/22

## Stories of Corvette Racing

Russ Surber



### World Endurance Championship (WEC)

There were no WEC events in September. The next WEC event will take place September 1 at Austin's Circuit of the Americas (COTA), which means that you'll be reading about TF Racing's exploits next month. This has been a long season for TF Racing, with a few bright spots but many more dark ones, mostly the result of mechanical and electrical problems that have popped up during races. The cars themselves have been fast enough to compete for podium finishes (first to third overall or in class) and the drivers have gotten a lot out of their machines, but endurance racing is as much a test of the car as it is of the drivers and on that score, 2024 has been a learning year for the team. After the COTA race on the first Sunday of September, two events remain on the WEC schedule, the 6 Hours of Fuji in Japan September 15, and the 8 Hours of Bahrain on November 2.

### IMSA Weathertech Sports Car Championship

On the IMSA Front, Pratt Miller Motorsports two Corvette Z06 GT3.R's recorded top-five finishes in both the GTD PRO and the GTD classes on Sunday at the end of a chaotic IMSA SportsCar Weekend event at Road America.

The #3 Corvette of Antonio Garcia and Alexander Sims finished fifth in the GTD PRO class, with the AWA duo of Matt Bell and Orey Fidani matching that result for their best GTD finish of the season in their #13 Corvette Z06 GT3.R. The GTD PRO pole-sitting #4 Corvette of Nicky Catsburg and Tommy Milner placed sixth in the hectic race.

The two-hour, 40-minute contest looked more like a short-track race with six full-

course caution periods. Two yellows inside the final hour worked against the three Corvette Z06 GT3.Rs, all of which looked to be in good shape on fuel strategy going into the final 70 minutes.



The first unlucky break for the Corvettes came on the opening lap as Sims went spinning from second place after contact from another GTD PRO car, a dive-bomb move that sent the #3 off-track and into the gravel. Recovery crews quickly pulled Sims back onto the track with minor damage to the suspension of the car.

That left class pole-sitter and leader Nicky Catsburg as the lone Corvette at the front of the field, and the #4 he shared with Tommy Milner led the first 10 laps before stopping for tires and fuel during the first caution period of the race. A handful of GTD PRO cars stayed out to jumble the running order, which put a greater premium on track position.

Both the No. 3 and No. 4 Corvettes attempted to manage their fuel usage across the final 75 minutes to regain the top positions, but two full-course yellows in quick succession alleviated all fuel concerns for the full GTD PRO field.

In GTD, Bell and Fidani in the Team AWA's Z06 GT3.R were the day's top movers by gaining 16 positions overall and 10 in class for their first top-five finish of the season. Fidani drove the first 46 minutes before Bell took over to the end. He was involved in multiple battles with other class competitors



– five and six cars at a time – but stayed clean to the end.

The result meant that Fidani continues to lead the Bob Akin Award standings, with the season championship going to the top Bronze-rated, points-scoring driver.

Three weeks later the IMSA circus moved to the Virginia International Raceway where Corvette has a history of success, and



expectations were high after Antonio Garcia put his Pratt Miller Motorsports Corvette Racing #3 on the outside of the front row and Tommy Milner put the #4 Corvette Racing car on the inside of row three. Unfortunately, that was the high point of the team's weekend. Both of the factory Z06 GT3.R's suffered from issues during the race, but it was the #3 which faced both the most hard-hitting reliability woes and a missed chance of likely taking the lead after the first round of pit stops.

Garcia was a four-time winner at VIR for Corvette, who have six in total. The five-time

IMSA champion claimed victory last year in the C8.R GTLM-turned GT3 car with co-driver Jordan Taylor. The Spaniard's current teammate, Alexander Sims, is the reigning GTP champion who claimed victory on his previous visit to VIR in 2018 behind the wheel of the BMW M8 GTLM, and so the record for both drivers and the team made the GT Challenge a promising event.

Fate, however, had a different plan that turned the #3's race into an unforgettable nightmare. It began when the #3 was one of the first GTD Pro entries to make their first pit stop, handing over the driving duties from Garcia to Sims. Sims was running in second position and expected to inherit the race lead before he slowed down on his opening laps when the power steering gave out. He conducted a power reset that didn't solve the problem and so the #3 headed behind the wall, into the garage where it spent nearly 30 minutes while mechanics replaced the power steering pump. The #3 fell from fighting for the win to the back of the order. To make the day complete, #3 then a suspension issue that put it once again behind the wall. The long day ended with #4 finishing 14th and the woebegone #3 dead last, 29 laps behind the ultimate winner, the BMW M4 GT3 of Bryan Sellers and Madison Snow. It is worrisome that at this point in the season Pratt Miller's cars are still having these kinds of mechanical problems.

On a slightly brighter side, Orey Fidani and Matt Bell brought AWA's #3 Corvette home P7 out of 14 GTD starters, the highest finishing car in IMSA's Bob Akin Award standings for the second time this season. Fidani leads the Akin standings, which earns the winner an invite to next year's 24 Hours of Le Mans for the highest finishing Bronze-rated driver, by 60 points over Sheena Monk.

The next IMSA WeatherTech Championship race will be on September 20-22 at the iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway;

***Fanatec GT World Challenge America Championship***



DXDT Racing scored a double victory in mid August at the Fanatec GT World Challenge America race at Road America, with the team's Chevrolet Corvette Z06 GT3.R's claiming the Pro and Pro-Am class wins. The Fanatec GT World Challenge America Championship took over Road America one last time to put on a great show. Familiar faces returned to victory lane, while new ones also took the top step for the first time.

All in all, it was a picture perfect Sunday for DXDT Racing, which scored both wins in the Pro and Pro-Am classes, in addition to securing a 1-2 finish overall.

### **Pro Class**

There was an immediate change for the Pro class lead as Elliott Skeer in the No. 120 Wright Motorsports Porsche 992 GT3 R charged past the #63 DXDT Racing Chevrolet Corvette Z06 GT3.R of Tommy Milner into Turn 1.

Milner remained within close proximity over the course of his stint, not allowing Skeer to pull a gap. As the two made a trip down pit lane near the halfway mark to perform driver changes, the battle was reignited as Adam Adelson took hold of the Porsche, with Alec Udell jumping in the Corvette.

The advantage swung in DXDT Racing's direction as they returned to the track for the second half of the race, with Udell further aided by Pro-Am class traffic coming into play, serving as a buffer to keep Adelson at bay. As soon as he had a clear track ahead

of him, he set off and continued to build his gap over the rest of the field.

Udell went on to take the checkered flag, clinching an impressive sixth consecutive win for the team. They were in a league of their own at the National Park of Speed, sweeping the weekend once again.

### **Pro-Am Class**

Robby Foley had a strong start, leading the pack as he started from the overall pole position in his No. 29 Turner Motorsport BMW M4 GT3. The fight for the remaining podium positions was taking place further behind, with Tom Sargent, Bryan Sellers, and Neil Verhagen running in sequence.

As Rothberg took over from Foley, he cleared the way for the Pro class fight that was shaping up around him, focusing on his own race. However, heartbreak followed as he suffered front tire damage, forcing him to limp all the way back to pit lane as he tumbled down the order.

There were shakeups on the leaderboard as pit stops were completed, with multiple cars exiting pit lane simultaneously. Bryson Morris went on the attack in the No. 08 DXDT Racing Chevrolet Corvette Z06 GT3.R, moving himself into the class lead and second overall. Samantha Tan had a strong hold over second in class in her No. 38 ST Racing BMW M4 GT3 as she sat fourth overall on the leaderboard.

In his debut weekend in the championship, Bryson Morris crossed the finish line to claim his maiden win in the series, earning DXDT Racing's first Pro-Am win as well.

The next Fanatic World Series Sports Car Championship race will be September 7-8 at Barber Motorsports Park in Alabama.

That's all, folks, see you next month with more stories of Corvette racing.

Russ Surber Editor and sometimes columnist for *Keepin' Track*

## **The Final Word**

*Russ Surber*



### ***Romance Comes To SLO Vettes***

So, we've had a marriage, and what a marriage it was! One might call Lisa and John's decision to escape to Las Vegas for their wedding a decision to elope. But, eloping in the company of several hundred Corvettes really doesn't fit the description, does it? Whatever, I'm sure you all share with Denise and me a quiet sense of joy and delight that these two very special people found one another and decided to include all of us in the wedding party and reception. As you know, we're all invited to a reception at Lake Nacimiento on Saturday, October 19, to celebrate the union of these two wonderful, good people. I think most of you have received an invitation to the reception and, if not, take a look at pages 17-18 of the Newsletter which has all of the information you'll need. It's a "Cowboy & Corvette" affair, so make sure your boots are polished and your string ties are shined up. And, remember make sure you let Lisa and John know by October 1 if you plan to attend. We'll see you there.

### ***SLO Vettes Needs a Helping Hand, Possibly Yours***

In his column this month President Craig raises the need to find someone (or someones, two people work well in this job) to take on the Events Chair next year. SLO Vettes has a long history of relying on three or four families to carry the burden of running the Club while everyone else just tags along for the ride. May I suggest that it's time to abandon that a tradition and adopt the mind set that membership includes accepting some of the responsibility for running the Club. At the moment we have almost 90 individual memberships. Surely, amongst those 90, five or six have the time to give the Club a few hours a week to help organize the year's events. What I'm suggesting is that this is probably the time you need to sit

down by yourself in a quiet room and ask yourself what have you done to support the Club, besides just showing up at events. That's a harsh way to say it, but clearly asking for help doesn't get it. If no one is willing to step forward and tell President Craig that they are available for the Events position, then we probably won't have any events in 2025. It's really that simple, if the membership isn't willing to take on some of the responsibilities inherent in a car club, then there won't be any events. So, please, President Craig has asked again and again for help and not a single person has responded. We all should be ashamed of that.

### ***Electric Vehicles Forever . . . Maybe***

On the EV front, one major manufacturer after another is announcing cuts in its EV program because of lower than expected consumer demands. That view, I would suggest, represents the triumph of hope over experience, because as best as I can divine, there was never a large surge of public opinion in favor of abandoning our beloved internal combustion engines (ICE) in favor of something that was dropped on the American People with very little in the way of real world experience with EVs. The Administration's wild belief that it could force people into EVs by mandating the extinction of ICE's proved to be near total failure, though if you look at our dear State's commissions on climate and energy you would think that Californians were marching in the streets demanding the conversion.

Somehow, through all of this the cold hard facts of reality seem to have won out. The CEO of General Motors, one of the early industry leaders to jump on the political bandwagon of electrifying our transportation system, has had to postpone new investments in battery factories because GM loses money on every EV it sells. The good news is that the industry is beginning to realize that the hybrid may be the the best way to a sustainable future. The coming presidential election will have something to do with how this issue plays out, but at some point even the most avid supporters of EVs

will have to admit that they are a bad fit for America's cultural attachment to the automobile that can be driven 500 miles without stopping for gas . . . or a recharge.

We drove from Kingman, Arizona, to our home in Paso Robles on one tank of gas, and had about 100 miles or range left. It will be at least a generation before any EV can reproduce that kind of performance. That is 446 miles. And that, my friends, is the mountain the EV movement has to climb, and it can't be done with mandates or wishful thinking.


Finally, have a wonderful September. It's a month of change as we slip gradually from summer to fall and a near perfect time to take a weekend off and get in the Vette and head off to somewhere that has nice Corvette roads and the prospect of a good meal in an attractive setting when you get there. And, of course, don't forget the Wave.

Russ Surber, Editor  
*Keepin' Track*

**Scenes from the Wedding**  
*Photos courtesy of Jan Dallons.*







*Save the Date*

THE

*Wedding Reception Party for*

John Fitzpatrick & Lisa Klockenteger  
October 19, 2024  
Luncheon 12:00 pm - 5:00pm  
*See Information details enclosed*

*. . . . And, on the next page of the Newsletter, you'll find a bit of history and some useful driving directions!*

## Dear Family & Friends

This invitation was made to both announce and invite you to come to our **Wedding Reception** being held 58 days after our wedding day on August 22, 2024 in Henderson, NV.

The back story.....

John Fitzpatrick and Lisa Klockenteger met on an internet dating site in February of 2021. Their first In-Person date was Memorial Day weekend 2021. John came to Paso Robles and Lisa showed him the countryside, top down in her sports car, a 2004 Chevrolet Corvette convertible. Along with his dog, Bosco they had a wonderful 2 days in Paso Robles. Fast forward to Thanksgiving 2022 John proposed to Lisa and they decided to have a long engagement. And when Lisa felt ready John suggested a quick Las Vegas getaway. Then in 2023 Lisa informed John about the Corvette Caravan to Bowling Green in which she wanted to go. It is held every 5 years and sponsored by the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky. Lisa also told John his wish of getting married in Las Vegas could be fulfilled since the first night of the Caravan on the road to Bowling Green would take them to South Las Vegas Blvd. To the M-Resort Spa & Casino. Now the wedding day could be set!! And so on August 22, in the company of several Caravan participants John and Lisa shared their nuptials. The Ceremony was performed in Lisa's Corvette in the parking lot of the M-Resort just before Sunset. The following day they started on their 6 day caravan with over 200 Corvettes to Bowling Green, KY.

Current Story.....



A Theme Reception party "Corvettes & Cowboys".....

.....Not wanting to leave out Family & Friends in our Celebration of Love

John and I will return to California September 10<sup>th</sup> and prepare for our Wedding Reception Party at Heritage Ranch where Lisa lives in her RV on her own RV lot within the gated community. The Reception will be held at the local Senior Center in the village. The Center's accommodations are very comfortable for a celebration luncheon. It will be held from noon to 5pm.

Good Food, Western & Pop Contemporary Music, Dancing, Corn Hole Games, Billiards and a Photo Booth will be located throughout the venue. We look forward to a great day!!

\*\*If so inclined, we would love gift certificates to Lowe's or Home Depot. We have some projects with the merging of 2 households..... John will be busy.

### Directions to Heritage Ranch

**From Paso Robles** take 24<sup>th</sup> Street West towards Lake Nacimiento. Once you pass by the Paso Robles Cemetery, you have about 9 miles of country road. Watch for signage to the lake and **turn right on to G14 (Lake Nacimiento Drive)**. Take this road **3 miles** and watch for signs saying **Heritage Ranch** on your left. **Turn left and drive 3/4 mile to the Guard Shack. You MUST Pull up to the window** and let them know who you are and that you are going to the Fitzpatrick Wedding at the Senior Center. Then drive through and continue Gateway Drive approx. 2 miles down to Heritage Road. **Turn Right** and the Center is immediately on your right.  
Don Everingham Center, 4880 Heritage Rd.

Please pull in and park in front of Don Everingham Center. Any questions, call or Text John or Lisa:  
John Cell # 818-216-2725 Lisa Cell # 805 400-9676

*BOOB!! Please RSVP by Oct 1, 2024*

# SLO Vettes Event Calendar 2024

## SLO Vettes -- Events -- 2024

Month	Date	Day of Week	Event
January	21st	Sunday	Events Planning Meeting
February	24th	Saturday	Parkfield Run - Parkfield
March	15th/16th	Postponed to Future Date	Reagan Library & Nethercutt Museum
March	30th	Saturday	<del>Maverick Saloon - Santa Ynez - Cancelled Weather</del>
April	13th	Saturday	<del>Vintage Cowboy - Pozo - Cancelled Weather</del>
April	27th	Saturday	Maverick Saloon - Santa Ynez
May	3rd	Friday	Drive to Creston & lunch at Morro Bay
May	4th	Saturday	Morro Bay Car Show
May	18th	Saturday	Tour de Paso Robles
June	1st	Saturday	BBQ at Tracy & Stacy Weed's Home - Atascadero
June	22nd	Saturday	Mission San Antonio - Jolon
July	4th	Thursday	BBQ at Dallons Home - Templeton
July	25th	Thursday	Solvang - PCPA
August	3rd	Saturday	BBQ at Bill & Grace Nagel's Home - Nipomo
August	16th	Friday	Hot El Camino Nights - Atascadero
September	14th	Saturday	Melodrama - Matinee - Dinner After Show - Oceano
September	27th - 29th	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Mystery Tour - ????
October	12th	Saturday	Pioneer Day Parade - Paso Robles - Lunch After
October			
November	2nd/9th	Saturday	Toy Drive - CHP - San Luis Obispo
November	16th	Saturday	Ragged Point Run
December	12/7/24	Saturday	Christmas Party - The Inn at Morro Bay

## SLO Vettes -- Monthly Business Meetings -- 2024

Month	Date	Day of Week/Time	Location
February	9th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
March	8th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
April	12th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
May	10th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
June	14th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
July	12th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
August	9th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
September	13th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
October	11th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
November	8th	Friday - 6:30 PM	Chevrolet Dealership - San Luis Obispo
December	--	--	No Meeting

