



JULY 14, 2022, VOL 6-7

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 11 2022

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Visit our website at www.villagevettes.com for changes and updates to the schedule

VILLAGE VETTES CORVETTE CLUB 2022

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At our June meeting, we had the distinction of having the Marine Corps League, Phillip C. DeLong Detachment #1267 Color Guard to present the colors. This was followed by a pin presentation to 15 veterans who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975. It applied to all active-duty personnel without distinction of those who served in-country, in-theater, or stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, only between 50-60 members were in attendance.

On June 25 there was a daytime Flightless Honor Flight, which went from Eisenhower Recreation Center to the American Legion. First, I would like to thank the 10 club members that came out to escort the busses full of veterans. Of a club with 340 Corvettes it is pathetic that only 10 could be there for the two hours on a Saturday afternoon. It is somewhat understandable that members wouldn't want to participate in the late night escorts, but this was an opportunity to participate in this worthwhile activity during daylight.

On July 3rd we conducted our third annual *Driving the Squares*. Participants had the choice to start at either Eisenhower Recreation Center or Savannah Center. From those locations we then were to caravan through the three squares waving an American Flag. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and it rained once again. Additionally, there was a craft fair and Brownwood, so we only drove two of the squares. The event was to end at the Baker House on Route 44A but that was changed due to the deplorable conditions at that location. We ended at George Nahas Chevrolet where we were under the covered area and were able to partake of hotdogs, chips and a beverage, which was paid for by the club. Ninety-one members attended the event and 100% of the fee that they paid went to two worthwhile causes; Baker House and the Sumter Co. Sheriff's Office.

At our July 14th meeting we will have a guest speaker. Early in her career as a flight attendant, Sharon was on a flight that was hijacked. She will highlight what the experience was like from a perspective that also includes some humor. Interestingly, decades later she met the hijacker.

Our food & beverage providers, Jeff and Cathy, will no longer be able to provide the coffee and cookies after the July meeting. The club needs a person, or couple, to step up to continue this tradition of providing something at the meetings. There isn't a lot of time required to provide this function and Jeff and Cathy would be happy to let you know what it entails. If interested, please send me an email or see me at the next meeting.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on the 14th.

Rich Rose - President

33 Veterans Honored in First Flightless Mission in over 2 years

By ABBY BITTNER, Daily Sun Staff Writer Jun 28, 2022



Vietnam Army Veteran Tony Curtis wipes away a tear after receiving mail during the flightless Villages Honor Flight mission on Saturday at Eisenhower Recreation Complex.

As Tony Curtis gently unwrapped his manila folder filled to the brim with letters, the veteran began to tear up.

Curtis, a resident of Buffalo Crossings Assisted Living and Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army for 12 years, was one of the 33 veterans on the Flightless Villages Honor Flight on Saturday.

Some of his notes included a message from the Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, which he started in The Villages in 2005, a letter from the governor and a drawing from the grandchild of his guardian, all to honor him for his service.

Villages Honor Flight takes local veterans on trips to Washington, D.C., to view war monuments. The flightless program, which began in September 2014, allows veterans with health concerns or limited mobility the chance to experience an honor flight without going to Washington.



Flightless Mission, con't



Village Vettes Upcoming Events for July, August, Sept. and Upcoming Dates for 2022

JULY 13 (Wednesday)

Jeremiah's of Mt Dora Lunch

Registration opens 6/13

Group Leader John Perrott (302) 379-2512

Meet at Eisenhower Rec Center at 10:30 for a 10:45 departure. Approximately 1 hour drive to Mt Dora for lunch followed by a casual stroll through the quaint lakeside shops of Mt Dora.

JULY 20 (Wednesday)

Stumpknockers on the River Dunnellon

Registration is open with 13 spots remaining

Group Leader Bob Navigato (847) 385-8789

Meet at Mulberry Rec Center at 4:00 for 4:15 departure. Approximately 1 hour drive through rural Marion County to this unique location on Rt 200. If you've been don't miss the opportunity. Don't confuse the Stumpknockers inverness. This is back country Florida cookin'.

JULY 27 (Wednesday)

Brooksville Bistro, Brooksville

Registration opens 6/26

Group Leader Wayne Johnson (586) 612-6991

Meet at Eisenhower Rec Center at 4:00 for a 4:30 departure. Approximately a 1 hour drive through rural Citrus and Sumter counties to historic Downtown Brooksville. Enjoy a menu of varied menu to choose on of their Artisan Woodfired Pizza's from the beautiful imported copper oven. Following dinner feel free to enjoy a leisurely walk through historic Brooksville.

8/5 (Friday)

Valiant Air Museum/Shiloh's Steakhouse Titusville

Registration opens 7/5

Group Leader Stan Cohen (860)-830-6067

Meet at Eisenhower at 7:45 for 8:00 departure approximately 2 hour drive. Stan has put together a remarkable day down in Titusville for all **attendees**. After approximately 2 hours of backroads to the Atlantic side of the state you take in the fabulous Warbirds Museum housing over 50 historic military aircraft. Following this event we'll retire to Shiloh's Steakhouse on the water for an equally fabulous meal. This is an all day event so rest up!

8/10 (Wednesday)

Red's Restaurant Hernando

Registration is open 21 spots available

Group Leader Ed Henry/Lina White (510)-612-2181

Meet at Eisenhower at 10:45 for 11:00 departure This is a reboot of the original D&D which was rained out in April. If you were registered for the original day you need to register again for the event. Fabulous restaurant only 45 minutes away.

8/30 (Tuesday)

Peck's Old Port Cove Crystal River

Registration is open with 17 spots available

Group Leaders Don & Kathie DiBartolomeo (216)-978-0041

Meet at Eisenhower at 9:00 for 9:30 departure approximately 90 minute drive. What a drive and what a restaurant. Keep the GPS handy if you get separated from the herd! Bring the camera and an appetite. Enjoy the fabulous views and menu.

9/9 (Friday)

Impanema Brazilian Steakhouse Ocala

Registration opens 8/9

Group Leaders George and Lois Borlase (352)-571-4026

Meet at Mulberry Rec Center (time TBD) for a backroads jaunt to the lovely horse country of Ocala for what can only be described as a "meat-stravaganza"! If you've never experienced a Argentinian/Brazilian gaucho style dinner, you're in for a big treat. Please note that this is likely to be a smaller group D&D due to restaurant limitations but these will be the only limitations you'll encounter.

***For more information about our
events go to www.villagevettes.com
and click on the Calendar.***

Upcoming Events Continued

9/14 (Wednesday)

**Progressive Aero/Howey Mansion/ JB Boondocks
Howey in the Hills**

Denny Carroll Group Leader (856) 430-9945 is putting together a full day of interesting site visits to a local sea plane manufacturer and the family home of citrus maven William Howey. Following these back to back site visits, we'll gather at the waterfront restaurant JB Boondocks on Little Lake Harris. A full day of site seeing and great food and conversation.

9/30 (Friday)

PF Chang's Restaurant/Trader Joe's Gainesville
We'll plan to meet at Mulberry Rec Center late morning (time TBD) for a fun drive off the beaten path.

Wayne Johnson (586)-612-6991 is Group Leader for a leisurely drive through the back country of Marion and Alachua Counties to dine at the ever popular PF Chang's. Not your everyday Chinese restaurant, PF Chang's offers a wide variety of Asian specialty appetizers and entrees presented in fantastic variations.

Following lunch you'll be free to step next door to the always entertaining Trader Joe's. A grocery store unlike any other, Trader Joe's offers a wide variety of unique, hard to find food presentations. It's more of a treasure hunt than a grocery grab. Enjoy yourselves and try something new at both of our stops.

Please remember, we need volunteers to be Group Leaders so we can add additional VVCC outings. It's easy and we will walk you through the process.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

10/18//20 Fall 2022 Color Run

Registration opens July 8 limited availability

10/25 NPD Tour Ocala

Registration opens 9/25

11/3-7 Tail of the Dragon NC Tour (Reg TBA)

Wayne JOHNSON - ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

(586) 612-6991

wayneoc5@gmail.com

Dine and Drive to Crump's Landing and Tiki Bar

On June 23 Ron Letourneau and Sue Knight put together an excellent D&D to Crump's Landing and Tiki Bar on the backwater in Homasasa. 24 VVCC members in 13 versions of our favorite sports car met at Eisenhower Rec Center to begin their journey westward in search of a Tiki Experience. None were disappointed as we arrived just before they opened which assured us prime seating as a group as this restaurant does not accept reservations even for large groups. This property is quite entertaining both for the beautiful scenery and the pirate/beachfront themed decorating. Food was excellent and we casually ate and then toured the property. Great getaway but still an easy drive under an hour.

If you haven't had the opportunity to view the website review of this outing, please take the time to watch George Borke's Oscar worthy effort at capturing the day. It's on the Home Page of the website under "Happenings-Pics and More". Shout out to Jimmy Buffet for providing appropriate musical background.

LAKE HARRIS HIDEAWAY DINE AND DRIVE

49 People and 25 Cars. June 15, 2022

Thanks to Gary Wilde/Pat McClellan for doing all the leg work and pre-trip work for our first June '22 D&D on the shores of beautiful Lake Harris. Unfortunately they were unable to attend and lead the group due to a last minute medical issue. No problem, all we had to do was pick a leader for the day as all the real work was complete. We met in the parking lot of Rohan Rec Center and began our caravan south with 47 VVCC members and 25 Corvettes snaking their way across the back roads of Lake County en route to the aptly named Lake Harris Hideaway near Taveres. It was apparent that the entire staff at the restaurant were looking forward to our arrival as most all of them were in the parking lot cell phones in hand recording the procession of America's Sportscars as we streamed in off Route 19. One of the short order cooks mentioned he'd never seen so many Corvettes in one place and several other patrons took time to snap selfies in the parking lot in front of their favorite car. One dad told his son there must be a car show here today.

Special thanks to Malissa and her staff at The Hideaway for their work in setting up a Corvette Club Only seating area and special menu entrees for our group and adding additional staff to accommodate our group. Lunch was excellent and conversation was spirited. Definitely on our list to revisit on next year's calendar.

If you've not had the opportunity to visit The Hideaway, put it on your to do list for good food and great scenery.



Meeting Your Secretary Stan Cohen

Stan Cohen grew up in Brooklyn NY and attended Erasmus Hall HS with Lanie Kazan and Barbra Streisand. He met his wife, Marsha, at “Brighton Beach” (“Brighton Beach Memoirs”), and after graduating from CCNY as a Mechanical Engineer in 1961, he and Marsha relocated to CT to work at Hamilton Standard, a division of United Technology, as a design engineer .

While working at Hamilton, he received his Masters Degree in Mechanics from RPI. Stan worked in varying capacities for 31 years before retiring in 1993. He started his career working on various fuel controls that were used on major aircraft. Stan helped to develop the fuel control for the C5A (the largest American aircraft) and the “new” 747, both aircraft still on the drawing board at that time. Stan assumed a new position as a consultant to engineering groups, undertaking assignments in the field of stress analysis, strength of materials and metal fatigue for propellers, gear boxes, fuel controls, environmental control systems, and space related hardware, including the space suit, the back pack and the portable life support system. After retiring, Stan pursued his longtime dream of teaching mathematics on a college level at Eastern State CT University for 9 years, and tutored mathematics both privately and at the local high school.

Stan lost his wife Marsha after 51 years of marriage, and Mary after 8 years of companionship, and so for his 80th birthday, he sold his precious, beloved 1992 SAAB convertible, which he had for 27 years, so that he could achieve his dream of owning a Corvette Convertible. The convertible and his membership in VVCC have kept him busy for the past 4 years, and has changed his life immensely. He looks forward to seeing you all at meetings and our “drive and dines” (most of which he attends), both as a leader and as a participant. Owning a Corvette is great, but participating in VVCC events is really “the frosting on the cake”. He hopes to “caravan” with all of you.

Corvette at Le Mans

A Sad Day for Corvette Racing

By: Ron Cullum



Corvettes leading the Pack at Le Mans

What originally looked to be a great outing for Corvette Racing ended in bitter disappointment. During the time trials the Corvettes placed 1 and 2 landing them in the front row for the race. This hasn't happened at Le Mans for over 20 years! And, for much of the race they were leading their class!

But on June 12 Corvette Racing's GTE Pro run at the 24 Hours of Le Mans ended with early retirements of both Chevrolet Corvette C8.Rs.

Alexander Sims in the No. 64 Corvette was fighting to regain the class lead just before the 18-hour mark when a prototype competitor hit him. The contact, with Sims on the far-left with two LMP2 cars going by, pitched the Corvette hard left into the guardrail nose-first.

Sims exited the car unassisted and was fine upon his return to the paddock. He, along with FIA World Endurance Championship teammates Tommy Milner and Nick Tandy, took turns leading in the pole-winning Corvette. Sims earlier set the fastest GTE Pro lap of the race.

Only moments earlier, Corvette Racing had retired the No. 63 Corvette due to significant mechanical damage – seen and unseen – at the rear of the car. It was unclear if this was a continuation from an earlier suspension issue in the race's first six hours. Every effort was made to get the car back into the race, but due to safety concerns for the team's drivers and fellow competitors, the decision was made to retire.

Corvette IMSA Racing at Watkins Glen

June was not a good month for Corvette Racing

By Ron Cullum



Hopes were high after the disappointing results at Le Mans. But the Saturday time trials for Watkins Glen did not prove much better. Qualifying 7th (dead last) in the time trials was not the best way to come back to America. Luckily(?) the lead car had an after-race disqualification which sent them to the back and Corvette got moved up to 6th place.

Then came the Sunday race. Starting so far back was a challenge but during the first three hours Jordan Taylor slowly inched himself up to third place. However the way he did part of the catch up was not considered kosher by the officials and resulted in a drive thru penalty which put us to the back of the pack again. It seems that they frown on cutting a corner short by driving off the course to make the track shorter is not in the rule book. Having two tires off the track in a corner is OK, but all four off the course is not. The first time you do it you get a warning, but after multiple times you get the penalty. In this this writer's opinion we deserved the penalty. I believe in following the rules.

Anyway, the second half of the race was driven by Antonio Garcia who was catching up and had it not been for so many rain interruptions and yellow flags, did have a shot at getting a podium finish. The last rain stop happened at 35 minutes left to go and almost immediately after the start a big bad BMW hit the rear end of our car and relegated our car to seventh (last) place.

Let's hope for better results in the July 3 race at the Orono, Ontario, Canadian Motorsport Park.

Corvette IMSA Racing at CTMP

It's July and we are back on the podium

By Ron Cullum



OK, so it wasn't first place, but we made it back with a solid second place finish.

The July 3 race at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP) was a tough one for our team who just couldn't catch the leading Porsche which led the class virtually the whole time. To the credit of Taylor and Garcia, they finished only a second behind on one the hilliest tracks in the IMSA circuit. Not bad considering they started from 5 place!

It was a nearly flawless race for both leaders and they each struggled passing when they are in the slowest category with 12 faster cars taking the advantage of all openings. Last year Corvette was in the faster GTLM class. This is part of the learning curve as we are now in the GTD Pro class.

Not to be a Monday morning quarterback, it is interesting to note that on the last pit stop, the winning Porsche did it in two seconds less time than the Vette – and remember, we only lost by one second.

But some good news for GM as the Cadillac in the Dpi class won the overall race. Of course, having 4 of the 6 cars in that class might have helped the odds a bit.

Now on to Lime Rock on July 15-16.



AMBASSADOR

Michael Grinder, VVCC Ambassador; Email: socratesjac@aol.com ;
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Summer is officially here: snow birds have gone, grills are cooking hot dogs, hamburgers and corn-on-the cob and gas prices are astronomical. But, what the heck, we bought Corvettes for a reason. Please find below some words on museum happenings including activities for the 28th anniversary and the more significant 30th coming soon. The museum has increased the cost of membership for what I believe is the first time in its history.

Anniversaries --- the 28th and 30th.

First, the 28th anniversary. The museum is arranging a variety of events over the September 1st (Thursday) to 3rd (Saturday) period for the 28th anniversary to include various track time opportunities in their cars. Details of the events can be found on the Museum website at <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/events/museum-events>.

The museum is in the planning stages for the 30th anniversary in 2024. Caravans from across the country will make their way to the museum and we can expect thousands of Corvettes. Our club will participate and you can expect posting from our club coordinator, Mike White, as we approach that time. I understand current planning has our group leaving The Villages heading north on I-75 with an overnight stop over just north of Atlanta and continuing on to Bowling Green the next day. Details will follow.

So far, I have not noted any information about 2023 and what would be the 29th anniversary.

Museum Membership: Fee Increase

The museum raises their membership fees effective July 1st. The new membership fees are: \$65 for individual, \$100 for family, \$750 for senior individual (20 years) and, \$200 for individual and \$350 for family for five-year renewal. For this you get:

- Membership card
- NCM member lapel pin
- Free admission to member*
- Discount on NCM sponsored events
- Annual subscription to America's Sports Car
- 10% discount on merchandise from the Corvette Store and catalog***
- 10% off NCM Motorsports Park Driving Club initiation fee
- Discount on insurance from NCM Insurance Agency



AMBASSADOR

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- Discounts on car rentals and hotels
- 20% discount on CARFAX reports
- \$10 off membership to Air Evac/AirMedCare Network
- Access to Members Only section of website, including Monthly Corvette Calendar Wallpaper and Special Videos

I spoke last month about the benefits of membership and will not repeat that discussion here other than to say my wife and I found the member discount at the Corvette store to be very valuable.

Coming Events

The National Corvette Museum website does not list any events for July and August with only the 28th Anniversary event in September listed. Please check the Museum website for updates.

Museum Raffles

The NCM is raffling off five C8s in the not-too-distant future. Car raffles are one of the main means of the museum to raise money and I encourage you to consider participating. You do have to be in it to win it and one of members won a couple of years ago. There is insufficient room in this newsletter to provide details of the raffles so please go to the museum website to review the offerings and applications for tickets.

Interested in supporting the National Corvette Museum by joining or renewing your membership? The easiest way to accomplish that is to go to the Museum website at CorvetteMuseum.org.



Save The Dates - The 11th Annual Village Vettes Toys-For-Tots Campaign Kick-Off event will occur on Saturday, 8 October '22. (11:00 AM – 03:00 PM) Venue will be the Nahas Chevrolet dealership. There will be music, food, games, prizes, auction items, and a 50-50 raffle. Price of admission is a cash donation and/or unwrapped toy. Stay tuned to the Village Vettes web site, <https://villagevettes.clubexpress.com>, for further details.



The Village Vettes 11th Annual Toys-For-Tots Caravan will occur on Wednesday, 30 November '22 at George Nahas Chevrolet dealership (10:00 AM). The event will cap-off our 2022 campaign effort. Always a fun event, the membership will members are invited to tour the facility, observe the process for toy distribution, and meet the staff.



Driving the Squares

By Don Chaney



On July 3rd, members of the Village Vettes Corvette Club met at 2 different locations to drive the three squares in The Villages. This was our 3rd consecutive year for this event to show off our beautiful cars while showing our patriotism for our country by waving American Flags and finishing the day with a Hot Dog (some had two Hot Dogs...I still do not know how someone could eat two ¼ pound all- beef Hot Dogs with a soda and chips). What could be more American than our beautiful flag, driving a Corvette, and eating a Hot Dog.

Members started from either the Savannah Center in the Northern Sector of the Villages and Eisenhower Recreation Center near Brownwood. We had 46 cars registered this year. Starting from one location might have caused traffic issues in a square.



Like last year Florida's afternoon Thunder Storms and rain had a major impact on this event. Our original itinerary was to conclude this event at the Baker House where Christopher Bach would have Hot Dogs cooking with all the fixing. We had to make a late call and change the itinerary to end at George Nahas Chevrolet. Special "Thanks" go out to Jon Cohan of Nahas Chevrolet for approving our



use of their facility. With all the rain, the grounds at the Baker House were not conducive to enter and park our cars.

All in all, we had 91 members and their co-pilots registered and paid for this event. Proceeds from this event were a \$500 contribution to the Restoration and Preservation of the Baker House and \$500 contribution to the Sumter County Sheriff's Department to be used for programs for children within our county.





NEVER STOP DRIVING

A newsletter for those committed to keep **driving** alive

By Larry Webster 07/01/2022

Ferrari, maker of soul stirring cars for the *one percent*, has taken a stand against robotic drivers. "No customer is going to spend money for the computer in the car to enjoy the drive," Ferrari CEO Benedetto Vigna recently told Bloomberg Television. **"The value of the man, of the human at the center, is fundamental."** Amen, brother, even if your company abandoned the manual transmission years ago.

This is a fascinating development because Vigna, who has a degree in physics, worked in the technology sector before joining Ferrari a year ago. Like many observers, I assumed he was hired specifically to chart a course for Ferrari in the autonomous vehicle future, but it turns out **Vigan has taken a stand in favor of enthusiast drivers and Ferrari tradition.**

"The human at the center," Vigna continued, **"is fundamental"** to the experience of owning and driving a Ferrari. I absolutely treasure that quote, partly because now I don't feel so bad about the thousands of dollars I'm dumping into my middle-class Ferrari restoration. I bought what is likely the least expensive Ferrari available, a 1975 308 GT4, for \$25,000, which is Mustang money. For my home-garage restoration, I'm hiring experts for the big stuff like paint but am personally tackling whatever I can. Here's my latest progress report. The body and engine are currently at separate shops so I'm currently in a holding pattern.



1975 308 GT4 before disassembly My 1975 308 GT4 before disassembly.

NEVER STOP DRIVING (con't)

While researching a piece on Ferrari's 75th anniversary that will be in an upcoming issue of Hagerty Drivers Club magazine (If you don't get it, please sign up for the Drivers Club. You'll be glad you did.), I asked Luigi Chinetti, Jr. what Ferrari fans thought of the 308 GT4 when it debuted nearly 50 years ago. Chinetti, Jr., with his father, the famous Luigi Chinetti, helped make the United States one of Ferrari's largest markets. Chinetti's answer provides a strong clue about why the GT4, which was sold under a Ferrari subbrand called Dino, is relatively cheap. He said, "When I saw the 308 GT4, I thought, 'oh, boy, this is the time to sell the dealership.' While it was nicely balanced, drove well, and you could see out of it, the GT4 was just cruelly ugly. It was unsalable. We had to take a Dino label off the front and put on a Ferrari badge. If it had remained a Dino, we would not have been able to give them away. And I'm being kind."

Some people are sensitive to unfavorable opinions of their cars. Not me. I laughed when Chinetti told me that and appreciated the historical perspective. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and I happen to love the GT4's design.

Swedish company Einride recently received approval from NHTSA to test its new, driverless, long-haul truck on public roads. The Einride truck, which looks straight out of a near-future sci-fi movie, has a maximum speed of 85 kph, or 58 mph, and a maximum range of 186 miles, depending on payload.

The Einride Pods are monitored remotely, and the remote operator, the company claims, can take control of the truck if it runs into odd situations that the autonomous system is unable to handle. Einride recently announced a new trailer that includes a massive battery to extend the truck's range to 400 miles.

California regulators declined to lift a ban on autonomous tractors, which is a bit odd since the state has an extensive regulatory framework for autonomous vehicles, and paid robotaxi rides are already underway in San Francisco. Current Cal/OSHA regulations state that "all self-propelled equipment shall, when under its own power and in motion, have an operator stationed at the vehicular controls." John Deere announced a fully autonomous tractor at CES earlier this year, and California-based Monarch Tractor has its own autonomous, electric tractor in development.

The self-driving revolution continues to accelerate in the commercial space, while passenger car AVs remain years away. That is probably just fine for fans of Gridlife, the automotive/racing/music festival that's proving that young people still like cars. One of the attendees brought a custom Mazda RX-7 that might be the best-sounding car I've ever heard.

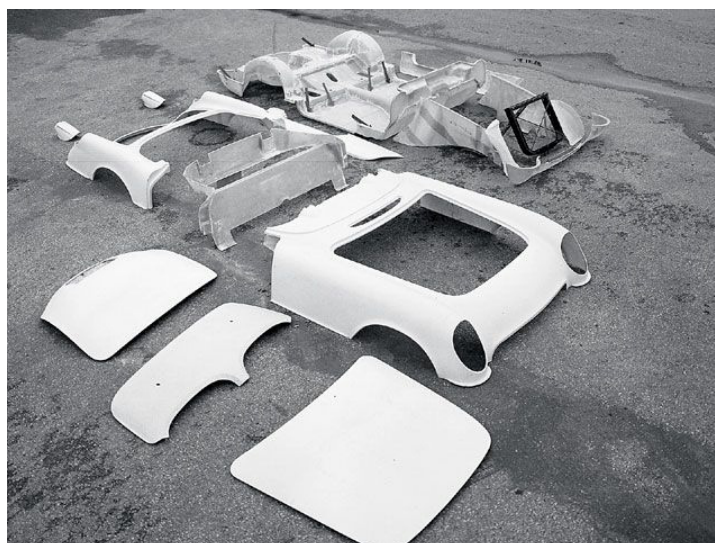
Happy Birthday, Corvette! America's Favorite Sports Car Turns 69 Today

By [Keith Cornett](#) Jun 30, 2022



Sixty-nine years ago the first Chevrolet Corvette rolled off a temporary assembly line on June 30th, 1953 – a scant six months following its public reveal at the GM Motorama in New York City.

Harley Earl was GM's Head of Styling and the story goes that he was at a race at Watkins Glen in New York to show off his La Sabre concept car when he had the first vision of creating a two-seater sports car that could compete with the likes of Jaguar, MG, and Ferrari. Code-named "Project Opel" the first prototype was created out of a new construction method utilizing glass reinforced plastic which we refer to today as fiberglass. Introduced in January 1953 at the GM Motorama show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, the first Corvette received great reviews and public acclaim for the little white roadster prompted GM to fast-track the Corvette into production. The first retail models were hand-assembled in the back of the Chevrolet's Customer Delivery Center in Flint, Michigan just six months later.



Happy Birthday, Corvette! con't

Chevrolet built 300 Corvettes over the course of the 1953 model year. A uniform design allowed the workers to concentrate on putting the bodies together without being distracted by trim and equipment variations. Therefore, all 1953 Corvettes were Polo White with Sportsman Red interiors and equipped with a canvas soft-top, 6.70 x 15 whitewall tires, and a Delco signal-seeking radio. Also standard was a 5,000-rpm tachometer and a counter for total engine revolutions.

Although some sports car purists took exception to the Corvette's only available transmission – the 2-speed Powerglide automatic, the Corvette was still a decent sports car with well-tuned examples running 0-60 mph in 11 seconds and having a top speed near 105 mph. The Blue-Flame 6-Cylinder was reported to make 150 horsepower after engineers gave the engine a more aggressive camshaft, solid lifters, dual valve springs, and a higher compression ratio.



The Corvette's original base price was set at \$3,498.00. However, the general public was hard-pressed to get one as most of the production was doled out to project engineers, GM executives, and other high-profile customers including Hollywood movie stars like John Wayne. In fact, a dealer notice issued in July '53 from the Central Office proclaimed: "No dealer is in a position to accept firm orders for delivery of a Corvette in 1953."

Chevrolet would take the first two Corvettes off the line and use them for engineering testing with both eventually destroyed. That leaves the VIN 003 as the oldest surviving Corvette, but that car isn't without controversy as the VIN 003 frame was separated from the body for additional testing, and now there are two 1953 Corvettes proclaiming to be the oldest surviving. You can see them at the NCM (frame) and in the collection of the late Dave Ressler (body).

Happy Birthday, Corvette! con't



As other production-completed Corvettes rolled off the assembly line, Chevrolet used several as promotional cars and the "Corvette Dealer Tour" was born. Dealers would get one of Polo White sports cars to display in their showrooms and use the opportunity to bring in customers to see it in person.

The road to success for the Corvette would be rocky those first few years and the car was nearly canceled following the 1955 model year which saw just 700 cars built. By then, the engineering talents of Zora Arkus-Duntov began paying off as the Corvette would finally see a Chevy V8 installed with technological leaps coming later with the addition of a proper 4-speed manual transmission and fuel injection.



The Chevrolet Corvette has come a long way since that first 1953 rolled off the assembly line. While we celebrate all Corvettes on this birthday, it all started 69 years ago today.

Europe Now Requires All New Cars To Have Anti-Speeding Monitors

The in-car tech may automatically slow down a vehicle if the driver exceeds the speed limit.

BY ROB STUMPF JUL 6, 2022 12:48 PM

COMING TO A COUNTRY NEAR YOU

The European Union officially adopted a mandate Wednesday requiring all new vehicles sold in the EU to include technology that could prevent drivers from speeding when activated.

Called **I**ntelligent **S**peed **A**ssistance (**ISA**), the tech uses different methods to detect the speed limit on any given road that a vehicle is traveling on. The primary means to detect the posted speed limit of any roadway is to use the vehicle's outward-facing cameras. However, the regulations also call for ISA to utilize map data and "deep learning" in case the speed limit cannot be determined from a sign. ISA regulations say that if a vehicle speeds on any road, the system—when activated—must warn the driver or even automatically slow down the vehicle until it reaches the posted speed limit.

Automakers can implement passive or direct methods to adhere to posted speed limits. For passive warnings, the vehicle may sound an auditory alert or gently caution the driver with a vibration in the steering wheel. For a more direct approach, automakers can choose to use the accelerator pedal to gently lift the driver's foot, or ensure that speed is "automatically gently reduced" by the vehicle's software.

For now, there are ways around the systems, namely: drivers will be able to override the tech. The European Road and Safety Charter says that drivers will be able to countermand the speed limiter by applying further pressure to the accelerator. If the system becomes too cumbersome, the vehicle operator will also have the ability to disable the system completely.

Those overrides are critical now because a vehicle's systems may not always perceive the correct speed limit when on the road. For example, damaged or vandalized road signs may cause the vehicle to improperly read a speed limit, as may non-harmonized signage. Likewise, weather conditions could cause the cameras to be unable to read a road sign. It is for these reasons that the EU has called ISA a "best-effort driver assistance system" and maintains that the driver is responsible for adhering to relevant traffic laws.

As of July 2024, all new vehicles sold in the EU must be equipped with ISA. The European Commission says that excess speed contributed to nearly "30 percent of all fatal crashes," and hopes that its new speed-related safety system mandate will significantly cut down on that figure as newer vehicles become more commonplace on the road.

Chevy Corvette Highest Initial Quality, According To J.D. Power 2022 IQS

BY [JONATHAN LOPEZ](#)

— JUL 5, 2022



American consumer research company [J.D. Power](#) has released the results of the 2022 U.S. Initial Quality Study (IQS), ranking car brands and new models based on the responses of new vehicle purchasers and lessees. Notably, the [Chevy Corvette C8](#) was recognized as the highest-ranking model in the study.



Now in its 36th year, the annual J.D. Power IQS collects survey responses from new vehicle purchasers and lessees early in the initial ownership period, with the latest 2022 study collecting 84,165 responses total. The survey, which was fielded between February and May of 2022, included 223 questions that break down initial vehicle quality into nine specific categories, including infotainment, features, controls and displays, exterior, driving assistance, interior, powertrain, seats, driving experience, and climate. From these responses, J.D. Power then calculates individual scores around a metric dubbed Problems Per 100 vehicles, or PP100, with a lower PP100 score indicating higher overall vehicle quality.

Chevy Corvette Highest Initial Quality, According To J.D. Power 2022 IQS CON'T



Of all the models studied, the [Chevy Corvette](#) had the lowest PP100 score at 101 PP100, making it the highest-ranked vehicle in the study. Additionally, the [Chevy](#) Corvette was the highest-ranked vehicle in the J.D. Power Premium Sporty Car category. Several other Chevy vehicles were also recognized as the highest-ranked in their respective categories, including the [Chevy Equinox](#) (Compact SUV), [Chevy Malibu](#) (Midsize Car), [Chevy Silverado](#) LD (Large Light Duty Pickup), [Chevy Silverado HD](#) (Large Heavy Duty Pickup), and [Chevy Tahoe](#) (Large SUV).



As *GM Authority* covered previously, Chevrolet in general did well in the study, [ranking third](#) amongst all car brands studied with 147 PP100. The industry average score was 180 PP100. [Heading the list of car brands](#) in the study was [Buick](#) with 139 PP100, followed by Dodge in second place with 143 PP100. Rounding out the top five car brands was Genesis and Kia, both with 156 PP100. [Subscribe](#) to *GM Authority* for more [mid-engine Corvette news](#), [Corvette C8 news](#), [Chevy Corvette news](#), [Chevy news](#), and around-the-clock [GM news](#) coverage.
Source: [J.D. Power](#)

Welcome New Members

List of New Members as of July 2022

Jim and Peggy Conti

They live in the Village of Santo Domingo. They are from New Jersey and they have a 2017 C7 Yellow, Black, Targa

Dave Fender

He lives in the Village of Osceola Hills. He is from Acworth, GA and he has a 2021 C8, Torch Red, Targa

Keith Jacobson

He lives in the Village of Hadley. He is from Swansea, MA and he has a 2015 C7, Adrenaline Red, Targa

Mark Moncrieff and Caroline Martin

They live in the Village of Pine Ridge. They are from Naples, FL and they have a 2018 C7 Charcoal Gray, Targa

Bob and Lairie Schulz

They live in the Village of St Johns. They are from Cedar Hill, Texas and they have a 2018 C7, Watkins Glen Gray, Vert

Rich Stein and Janice Gilmer

They live in the Village of Haciendas of Mission Hills. They are from Miami, FL and they have a 2003 C5, Anniversary Red, Targa

Let's give a warm welcome to our newest members!

TOTAL MEMBERS 533

FAMILIES	458	
SINGLES	75	
GEN	Qty	% Tot
C8	75	22%
C7	103	30%
C6	56	16%
C5	48	14%
C4	20	6%
C3	24	7%
C2	11	3%
C1	11	3%
TOT.VETTES	348	

TOP 10 VILLAGES

VILLAGE	#
COLLIER	27
PINE HILLS	27
GILCHRIST	24
PENNECAMP	24
LABELLE	19
FEENEY	16
FERNANDINA	16
PINE RIDGE	16
HEMINGWAY	15
MCCLURE	15

37% 199

ALL OTHERS 105

AS OF: 07/07/22 12:02

	Body	Qty	% Tot
	RagTop	136	39%
NCM MEMBERSHIP	Targa	135	39%
NCM FAMILIES	73	T-Top	19
INDIVIDUAL	26	Coupe	7
LIFETIME	10	HTC	33
SENIOR INDIV	1	FRC	4
TOTAL = 110	DON'T KNOW	14	4%
	TOTAL	348	

As of: 07/07/22 12:02



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