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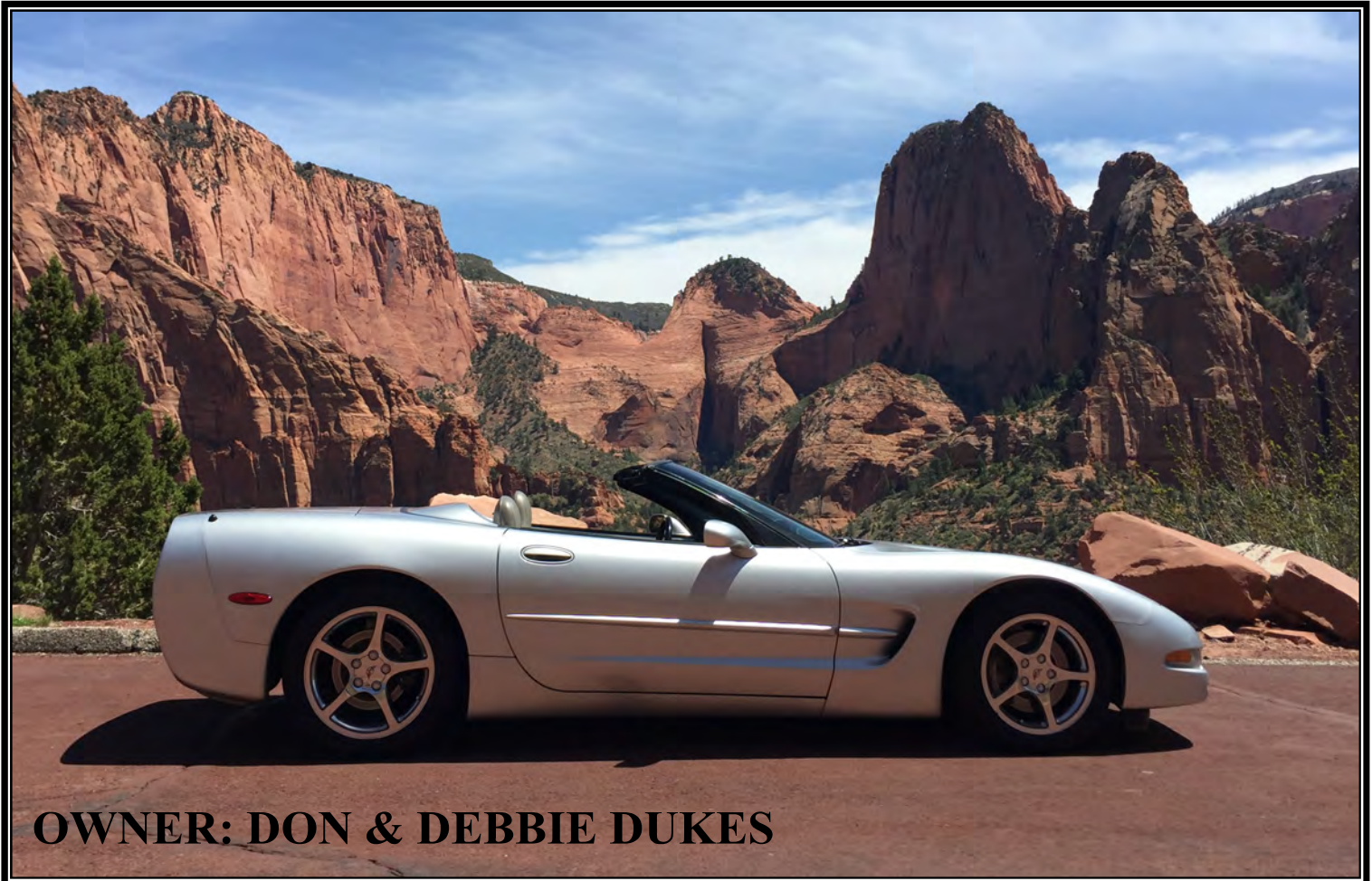
CORVETTES OF FRESNO

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

ESTABLISHED 1963

AUGUST 2017



OWNER: DON & DEBBIE DUKES

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER EVENTS

AUGUST 19, 2017 - SATURDAY: HOT AUGUST DAYS

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2017 - TAHOE 49

TAHOE 49 SEPTEMBER 7 - 9, 2017



Tahoe 49

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

September 7-10, 2017

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

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

**Registration: Forms available on the website: www.corvettesoffresno.com
also released via e-mail - jimagar14@gmail.com - teixeira2k@att.net**

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 CARS

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 15th 2017

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

ALL REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER AUGUST 1, 2017

WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$20.00 LATE FEE

EARLY BIRD DRAWING

**ALL PAID REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED BY MAY 1, 2017 WILL BE ENTERED IN A
DRAWING FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100.00 CASH!**

**DUE TO CONTRACTS WITH OUR VENDORS WE CANNOT ISSUE ANY REFUNDS ON
CANCELATIONS AFTER AUGUST 15, 2017 (No Exceptions)**

Highlights

Welcome Social Thursday Night at Rum Bullions Island Bar

Shine & Show Friday Morning

Slot Tournament \$10.00p/p - Friday Afternoon

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

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

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

Awards Dinner at Silver Legacy - Saturday Night (INCLUDED)

**ALL TICKETS FOR RAFFLE & 50/25/25 DRAWING TO BE PURCHASED AT EVENT
PLEASE NOTE - DRESS CODE FOR AWARDS BANQUET IS SMART CASUAL**

www.corvettesoffresno.com for Additional Details & Updates

All Net proceeds from Tahoe 49 will be donated to Charity

Accommodations

**Silver Legacy Hotel & Casino: (800) 687- 8733 Use the Group Code 917CORV
Room Rates: Thursday \$75.00 Friday & Saturday \$135.00 (plus tax & resort fee)**

Buffet Breakfast for 2 each Day is Included!

(must book through group code 917CORV to get included breakfast buffet)

Register now so you don't miss out on the 49th Tahoe Tour

Register by August 14, 2017 for Room Rate Guarantee

FIBERGLASS FOREVER



CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC

Is a non-profit organization formed by those owners who are proud to drive America's only true sports car
THE CORVETTE

Our club meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Yosemite Falls Cafe 4020 North Cedar
Between Dakota & Ashlan on the East side of Cedar

If you are an interested Corvette owner, we invite you to attend.

The one time initiation fee is \$30.00 and covers the cost of your Corvettes of Fresno window sticker, membership directory, club by-laws, nametag and many other goodies.

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

COF BOARD MEETING NOTICE

CORVETTES OF FRESNO BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE
START TIME IS 6:30 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

1984 TRIVIA

The 1984 Corvette had the steepest windshield rake angle of any previous American production automobile at 64 degrees.

A single transverse plastic front and rear spring first made it's appearance on the 1984 Corvette.

CORVETTES OF FRESNO, INC 2016 OFFICERS

President: Chuck Ware
E-mail: president@corvettesoffresno.com

Vice Pres.: Dave Trauger
E-mail: events@corvettesoffresno.com

Secretary: Ruth Looney
E-mail: secretary@corvettesoffresno.com

Treasurer: Gerri Ware
E-mail: treasurer@corvettesoffresno.com

Membership: Robb Kochevar
E-mail: membership@corvettesoffresno.com

Webmaster: Chris Campbell
E-mail: webmaster@corvettesoffresno.com

Newsletter: Jim Agar
E-mail: newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com

WSCC Representative: Allen Teixeira
E-mail: representative@corvettesoffresno.com

Sunshine: Betsy Lindegren
E-mail: sunshine@corvettesoffresno.com



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FIBERGLASS FOREVER IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION.
PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES NO LATER THAN THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH VIA EMAIL TO:
newsletter@corvettesoffresno.com



NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS



**2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES
ARE DUE & PAYABLE AT THE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 GENERAL MEETING**

**DUES PAID AFTER THE SEPT MEETING WILL BE
CHARGED A \$20.00 LATE FEE & NAME WILL NOT
APPEAR IN THE 2018 DIRECTORY**

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

BYLAWS STATEMENT ON DUES (page 3)

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

**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING NOMINATION OF
2018 BOARD MEMBERS**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR NOMINATIONS READY FOR
THOSE MEMBERS YOU WOULD LIKE TO REPRESENT
CORVETTES OF FRESNO DURING THE 2018
CALENDAR YEAR!**



THE PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



GREETINGS VETTE LOVERS !!

Well it's already August. Time flies when you're having fun.

We had a great run to the Snelling Car show. Got to see some nice cars and have a deep pit Bar-B-Que lunch in a nice park by the river. Thanks to Clay & Lan Mumby for heading this run up and leading us there.

We need some runs for this month and the rest of the year too. If you have an idea please contact a board member and we will gladly help you make it happen. We have a lot of new members, so going someplace we've been to before will be new to a lot of people and easy to do.

Tahoe 49 is right around the corner. There has been a lot of time and effort put forth to make this a special event. We need more COF members to sign up, so if you're going please get your application in. Well that's it for now. Hope to see you all soon in those Vettes!

**Your President
Chuck Ware**





CORVETTES OF FRESNO - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 18, 2017



Call to Order:

President Chuck Ware called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Board Members present: Dave Trauger, Robb Kochevar, Gerri Ware, and Ruth Looney. Jim Agar was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was shared by all.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting are published in the COF newsletter. A motion to waive the reading of the June 20, 2017 Minutes was made by Louie Biglieri and seconded by Nancy Teixeira. Motion approved.

A motion to accept the Minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Angie Diliddo and seconded by Carol Trauger. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Gerri Ware reported the accounts activity for June, which is on file to be reviewed by members only. A Motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report as read by Lee Delap and seconded by Carol Trauger. Motion approved unanimously.

Membership:

Robb Kochevar reported we have 56 members present including 1 guest. Corvettes of Fresno have 139 members and 95 corvettes. He presented new member Hal Blanton with the new membership packet. Anniversaries and Birthdays were acknowledged.

Communication:

Jim Agar was absent so there was no report.

Webmaster:

Webmaster Chris Campbell said the site is up to date.

Activities:

Please refer to the Calendar of events in the club newsletter, or on the club web site, www.corvettesoffresno.com for more details and up to date information. **Guests are encouraged to attend any event, come join the fun! Remember all sign up sheets are on the side table.**

Past Events:

June 22-25, 2017: Lake Tahoe Corvettes, 13th Corvettes at Lake Tahoe at Mont Bleu in Stateline NV. Art Durham reported on event and said they had a lot of time "on their own".

July 9, 2017: Snelling Car Show, Henderson Park, Yosemite Corvette Club, Clay and Lan Mumby hosting. Clay reported it was a good run. 12 cars attended.

July 11, 2017: Tahoe Meeting, Denny's at Blackstone and Herndon, 7:00pm.

July 14-15, 2017: Southern Oregon Corvettes, 27th Corvette Weekend at Grant's Pass, Oregon.

Up Coming Events:

July 29, 2017: Bert Sherman's Mystery Run and Dinner. Depart from Sportsman's Warehouse parking lot. Meet at 1:00, leave at 1:15. Gentle mountain driving. \$6 per person for appetizers, dinner ranges from \$19-\$28 per person. Water, tea and lemonade are available with appetizers.

August 1, 2017: Board Meeting, Spaghetti Factory, 6:30pm.

August 8, 2017: FINAL Tahoe 49 Meeting, Denny's at Blacktone/Herndon.

August 15, 2017: General Meeting, Yosemite Falls, 7:00pm.

August 19, 2017: Hot August Days, Vallejo Applebee's Parking lot. Dave has forms.

October 17-22, 2017: WSCC Convention in Las Vegas. Information available on the WSCC website.

December 2, 2017:

COF Christmas Party, hosted by Angie DiLiddo, at Pardini's, \$38 per person.

Tahoe 49:

Allen handed out a survey regarding Tahoe satisfaction and asked members to fill out if they have any issues with the Tahoe Run, and return to box on the sign in table. He discussed his concern about the low COF registration to date. A total of 57 cars have registered so far. After August 1, there's a \$20 late fee. After August 15, there are no refunds. Please pay Gerri Ware by August 1 for donations,

WSCC:

Allen discussed the Redline Magazine.

Sunshine Report:

Betsy Lindegren reported no "new" news but had several updates. Celia Feccia says she is doing well—even going out for errands. And great news, she is in attendance tonight. Kelly Ashley reported she doesn't have cancer; however, she does have a broken tailbone with a bump on it pushing against a nerve. Her Dr. is going to give her a shot via an epidural on July 10, hoping to reduce inflammation to avoid surgery. Betsy tried to get a hold of her today but had to leave a voice mail. Margaret Gonzales lost a brother to cancer in June. Bob Reinke is suffering from a pinched nerve in his neck. Cards were sent.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Name Tag Drawing: Pat Mattos's name was drawn last month and she was in attendance and won \$10. This month is worth \$10. Jeannie Swann's name was drawn but she wasn't present. Next month is worth \$20.

50/25/25 Raffle: Names drawn were Lee Delap and Buddy Pond. Each won \$37.

There being no further business a motion was made by Debbie Dukes to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Carol Trauger. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Ruth Looney



RUTH LOONEY
SECRETARY

ROBB'S MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Membership

Robb reported that as of the 2017 Calendar Year COF has 139 members and 95 cars.

Members & Guests

56 members present including 1 guest.

Nametag drawing

Jeannie Swann's name was drawn but she wasn't present.
Next month is worth \$20.

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

Club Directories and Updates

The 2017 electronic copy of the club membership directory is available online at www.corvettesoffresno.com (contact Chris Campbell for the new access info)



**ROBB
KOCHEVAR
MEMBERSHIP**



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



ROLANDO & LORI MARTINEZ 7

ART & BRENDA DURHAM 7

JOE & MARGARET GONZALEZ 11

PHIL & SUSAN RIVAS 14 - MIKE & JENNIE SCHWAN 17

DON & DEBBIE DUKES 17 - NICK & ANGIE DILIDDO 18

BRUCE & SHERI GARLOCK 25 - GARY & DIANE HUSS 25

RANDY & PAM FORRESTER 29



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



PETER CHOLAKIAN 4 - ANGIE DILIDDO 7

BRUCE GARLOCK 7 - LARRY CERVANTES 10

CHRIS CAMPBELL 21 - JOANN NAJARIAN 24

MOKEY COWGER 24 - MANNY VIDAL 30

50/25/25 DRAWING WINNERS

**LEE DELAP
BUDDY POND**

EACH WON \$37.00

CONGRATULATIONS!



Sunshine Report



Celia Feccia says she is doing well—even going out for errands.

Kelly Ashley reported she doesn't have cancer; however, she does have a broken tailbone with a bump on it pushing against a nerve. Her Dr. is going to give her a shot via an epidural on July 10, hoping to reduce inflammation to avoid surgery.

Margaret Gonzales lost a brother to cancer in June.

Bob Reinke is suffering from a pinched nerve in his neck.



**COF WELCOMES OUR
NEWEST MEMBER**

HAL BLANTON



DAVE'S 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



AUGUST 1, 2017 - TUESDAY - BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY ON SHAW NEAR CEDAR AVE

AUGUST 8, 2017 TUESDAY - FINAL TAHOE 49 MEETING - 7PM, DENNY'S BLACKSTONE AND HERNDON

AUGUST 15, 2017 - TUESDAY - GENERAL MEETING 7:00 PM AT YOSEMITE FALLS CAFE LOCATED AT 4020 N. CEDAR

AUGUST 19, 2017 - SATURDAY: HOT AUGUST DAYS - VALLEJO - APPLEBEE'S PARKING LOT.

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2017 - TAHOE 49

OCTOBER 17-22, 2017: WSCC CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS.

DECEMBER 2, 2017 - CORVETTES OF FRESNO CHRISTMAS PARTY



**DAVE TRAUGER
VP ACTIVITIES**

**THE FINAL TAHOE 49 MEETING
WILL TAKE PLACE**

**AUGUST 8, 2017 TUESDAY 7PM AT
DENNY'S**

BLACKSTONE AND HERNDON

**PLAN A RUN!
TAKE US TO YOUR FAVORITE
PLACE**

"ALL RUNS ARE FUN"

**MEET & EATS
DAY TRIPS
OVERNIGHTERS**

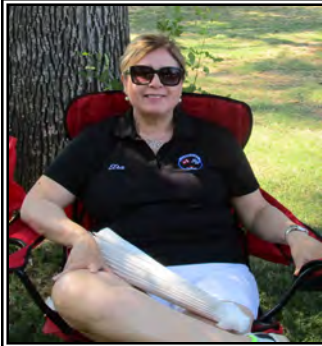
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAN A RUN BUT
ARE NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO
PROCEED, PLEASE ASK ANY BOARD
MEMBER FOR HELP.**



WSCC

**ALLEN DISCUSSED THE
REDLINE MAGAZINE**

SNELLING CAR SHOW



WSSC CONVENTION 2017

This years WSSC Convention will be held in Las Vegas on Tuesday, October 17th through Sunday, October 22nd 2017. The Convention hotel is the Alexis Park Resort - All Suite hotel in the heart of Las Vegas and 3 minutes from the strip. We were actually at this hotel in 2009 which was one of our most popular Convention.

Welcome Party

Car show in the afternoon (Type V)

Track Day - Spring Mountain Motor Resort in Pahrump NV

Taste of the Track

Autocross at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Poker runs and Scenic Drives - some very great roads in and around the Las Vegas to pick from

Hospitality room competition - we will have 2 large suites on two different nights

Awards Dinner

Other events to prevent you from getting bored...

THE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, 17th	Wednesday, 18th	Thursday, 19th	Friday, 20th	Saturday, 21st
Registration opens*	Auto-X (\$45)* Scenic Drive (\$10)*	Track Day (\$200)* Taste of the Track (\$100)*	Poker Run (to the car show) (\$15)*	Cars and Coffee other events planned.
Welcome party	Hospitality Competition I	Hospitality Competition II	Car Show (afternoon) (\$30)*	Awards Dinner (\$45 pp)

This Event is open to any club or individuals who want to come to Las Vegas and have a lot of Corvette fun! Our convention will also be going on in the time frame of the popular Barrett Jackson auction that will add something to do in Las Vegas.

Note: At the end of the registration process you will receive a link to the hotel booking site with special WSSC rates for that week. We will all be together in two buildings at the site. Note that searching for hotel rates often provides you with teaser pricing that does not include resort fees and other fees, be careful when you directly compare them to our hotel pricing!

Please do not contact the hotel until we post the registration/reservation key on the registration page on our website.



The Registration process goes through MOTORSPORTREG.COM. Note that if you do not have an account there you will be asked to create one.



Corvettes of Fresno

Please join us for our

Annual Christmas Party

Saturday December 2, 2017

at

Pardini's

2257 W Shaw
Fresno, Ca

6:00 pm - No Host Bar

7:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner

8:00 - 10:00 pm - Music by JT & Sarah

\$38.00 per person

Enjoy a dinner of Braised pan Roast Beef or Chicken Piccata

Hosted by:

Nick & Angie Diliddo

559-439-7267

Please RSVP not later than November 20, 2016

Make checks payable to Corvettes of Fresno



MERRY CHRISTMAS



CORVETTES OF FRESNO, inc ADVERTISING CORNER



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Joe Gonzalez

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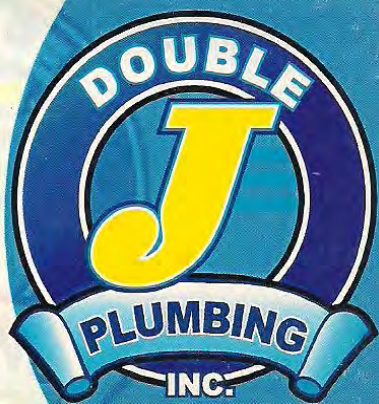
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Happy Birthday Corvette! America's Favorite Sports Car **Turns 64 Years Old This Month!**

Sixty-four years ago at a small factory in Flint, Michigan on Van Slyke Road, the first 1953 Corvettes rolled off the assembly line and into automotive history. On June 30th 1953, these Chevrolet workers and executive gathered for a group photo around the VIN 001 Corvette.



In the early 1950's, Harley Earl, GM's head of styling, envisioned a low-cost American sports car that could compete with Europe's Jaguar, MG's and Ferrari. Codenamed "Opel", the very first prototype made its debut in January 1953 at the GM Motorama show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The great reviews and public acclaim for the little white roadster prompted GM to fast track the Corvette into production and the first retail models were hand assembled in the back of the Chevrolet's Customer Delivery Center in Flint, Michigan just six months later.

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 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."

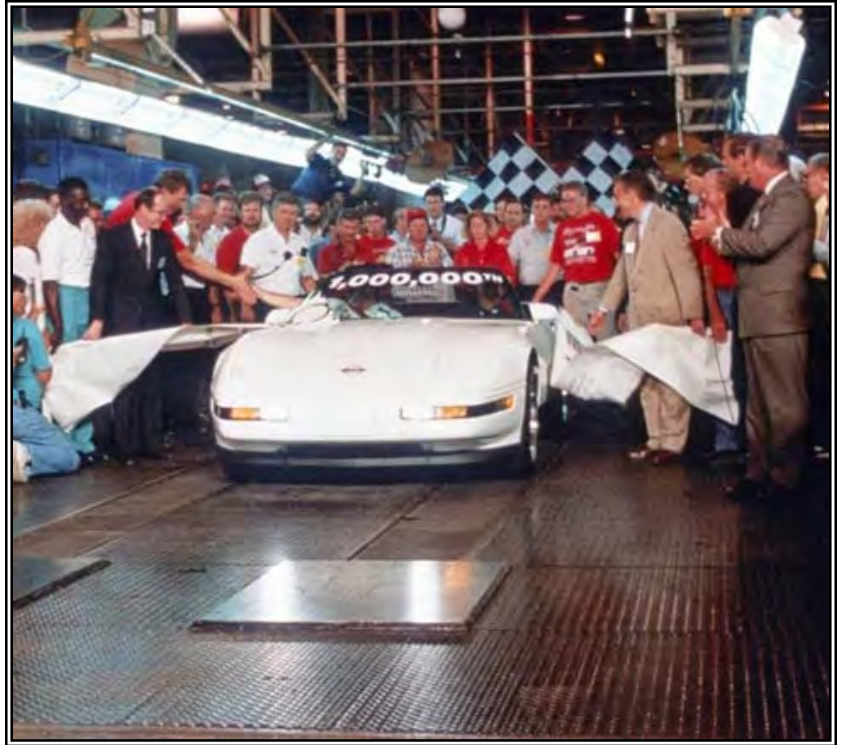
The Chevrolet Corvette has come a long way since that first 1953 rolled off the assembly line. While we celebrate all Corvettes on this birthday, it all started 64 years ago:

25 Years Ago: Chevrolet Builds the 1 Millionth Corvette

As we just celebrated the 64th birthday of the Chevrolet Corvette, this weekend another milestone for the Corvette occurred 25 years ago on.

That's the day that the 1 millionth Corvette rolled off the Bowling Green assembly line. The 1992 Corvette convertible was outfitted the way the original 1953 Corvette appeared – white with a red interior.

A celebration was planned for the event including Dave McLellan (Corvette Chief Engineer), Zora Arkus-Duntov (Corvette Chief Engineer, retired) and Jim Perkins (Chevrolet GM), along with Bowling Green Plant Manager Paul Schnoes and UAW Local 2164 President Billy Jackson.



The 1 Millionth Corvette was one of the Great Eight Corvettes to be swallowed by a sinkhole at the National Corvette Museum in February 2014. Once the 1992 Corvette was rescued, Chevrolet took the milestone car back to Detroit where a rebuild team made up of 30 people from GM Design's Mechanical Assembly Group took four months and spend some 1,200 man-hours to fully restore the car, including the hundreds of signed components by those that assembled the car in Bowling Green.

The restored 1 Millionth Corvette returned to the National Corvette Museum in September 2015 and can be seen on display with the restored 2009 Corvette ZR1 and the other six Corvettes rescued from the sinkhole

June 2017 Corvette Sales

General Motors has issued the sales numbers for June 2017 and Corvette sales remain strong as the first 2018 model year Corvettes were delivered to new owners during the month.



The June 2017 Corvette Sales Report shows that 2,612 Corvettes were sold during the month, an increase of 5.2% over the same time period in 2016. For Calendar Year to Date sales, Chevrolet has delivered 13,707

Corvettes from January 1 to June 30th, a decrease of -6.6% from 2016's 14,668 Corvettes sold over the same dates.

The 2018 Corvette officially started production on June 5th and customers were already taking delivery of their new cars by the end of the month.

In an exclusive report last week, the Corvette Team told us that nearly 400 orders have been accepted for the new 2018 Carbon 65 Corvettes and that Chevrolet will build around 350 of the planned 650 cars prior to the summer factory shutdown. Production will resume on the limited edition Grand Sports and Z06s in November.

Chevrolet's offers page is only featuring one incentive – 4.9% APR financing for 60 months on all 2017 Corvette models (Base, Z51, Grand Sport and Z06) however, that incentive ends on July 5th. We expect the incentives to end as Chevrolet will be producing no Corvettes for three months and will let the market reduce its inventory through attrition.

Here's the GM Sales Report for Corvettes in May 2017:

Corvette Delivery Statistics for June 2017							
Month				Calendar Year-to-Date			
Month	2017	2016	% Change	Months	2017	2016	% Change
June	2,612	2,483	5.2%	Jan-June	13,707	14,668	-6.6%

Corvette Sales Monthly Archive:

Archived Monthly Corvette Delivery Statistics													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	1,263	2,081	2,460	2,756	2,535	2,612							13,707
2016	1,501	2,116	2,753	3,142	2,673	2,483	2,159	3,063	2,829	2,626	1,941	2,709	29,995
2015	2,127	2,605	3,785	3,469	3,514	2,807	2,794	2,725	2,572	2,526	1,952	2,453	33,329
2014	2,261	2,438	3,480	3,514	3,328	2,723	3,060	2,679	2,467	2,959	2,378	3,552	34,839
2013	908	980	1,053	974	905	853	671	655	831	3,929	2,527	3,005	17,291
2012	629	927	1,376	1,396	1,219	1,475	987	1,210	1,351	1,167	1,104	1,291	14,132
2011	721	955	1,163	1,454	1,304	1,299	1,291	936	1,147	946	910	1,038	13,164
2010	854	624	955	1,089	1,428	1,405	1,199	1,135	1,109	1,011	836	979	12,624
2009	842	1,027	1,183	1,407	1,643	1,396	966	746	1,585	1,154	952	1,033	13,934
2008	2,015	2,071	2,692	3,190	2,904	2,082	1,870	4,242	2,318	1,170	1,093	1,324	26,971
2007	2,234	2,784	3,158	3,227	3,300	2,377	2,377	2,877	2,837	2,484	2,438	2,914	33,685
2006	2,579	3,058	3,655	3,516	3,317	2,938	2,794	2,990	3,056	2,761	2,773	3,081	36,518

General Motors sold 202,908 vehicles in June 2017 to retail customers and 243,155 total vehicles overall. Total sales were down about 3 percent from last year.

Chevrolet's retail sales totaled 138,996 and are down -1.5% for the month. Crossover sales continue to lead the growth with sales up 42 percent: The Traverse was up 71% while Equinox sales were up 36%.

The Corvette Assembly Plant's Three Month Shutdown to Begin July 28th

Amid speculation on the Web that the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant is getting ready for a new generation that could include hybrid or mid-engine Corvettes, most workers at the Kentucky plant will take off beginning July 28 and won't be returning to work until October.



That was the word from Plant Manager Kai Spande, who talked last Thursday about the upcoming 13-week shutdown during the awarding of the plant's grants to local non-profit organizations.

Fortunately, the plant has already assembled some 2018 Corvettes in the past few weeks for delivery during the shutdown, but production and delivery of what will be the fifth year of the C7 models won't resume again until November.

Spande said the shutdown will allow installation of equipment, setting up a new car build process for the 2018 Corvette, and getting the nearly \$500 million new paint shop up and running.

Meanwhile, a United Auto Workers Local 2164 leader said some areas of the plant will still be on the job during the shutdown, "mostly painters."

Vice President Jack Bowers told a reporter for The Bowling Green Daily News that all of the 838 permanent employees should be back at work in October, but the several hundred temporary workers who also help produce the Corvette won't return immediately.

"It will be a slow, steady process when you do this level of restructuring in the plant," Bowers said. "We're basically rearranging things so that parts coming from the paint area are coming from a different area, and we'll be using a conveyor system to bring all parts over to be assembled. It will take at least a month to get things rolling."

In an earlier story, we told you the new paint facility is on the other side of the factory than the previous paint shop. So moving the panel assembly areas closer to the new paint shop means that there is less opportunity for those newly painted parts to get dinged or damaged as the car moves through the assembly process. Second is the fact that they want to change the current assembly layout so those painted panels are among the last steps of the assembly process, again to mitigate the potential for damage as the car is being assembled.

Finally, the general assembly process will be transformed by utilizing flexible assembly methods that feature robotic delivery of parts and components to the stations as well as allowing the worker greater access to the vehicle and its sub-systems during assembly. An example is the engine dress line that will allow workers to easily rotate the engines to make it as easy and as accessible as possible for the worker to do their jobs.

Another significant move is the time for each worker to install the parts. Currently, the assembly line moves at a rate of 17 cars completed per hour. This will be decreased to 12 cars per hour as the workers will get an additional two minutes per car (from three minutes to five minutes) at each of their stations. Not only does this allow the worker more time to do their jobs, but it should also increase quality as they will have more time to inspect and review the cars as they go down the line. The rate of 12 cars per hour is not something that can be changed. At the NCM Bash in April, Kai said if you want to build more cars, then you need more hours to do so, not a faster running line.

At the Bash, he showed how the current line features a lot of steel scaffolding and an inflexible line that carries parts through the factory. Another key stat is that currently 80% of the parts are delivered via forklifts. Following the upgrades much of the scaffolding and delivery of parts will be replaced with a new system of automated guided carriers which are essentially robots that follow a predetermined path to deliver the completed sub-assemblies or the other parts needed for building the cars.

Of course, with the plant closed for the renovations, the factory tours are shut down, and we've been told they may not resume until early 2019 – a move that has caused speculation that GM doesn't want prying eyes seeing any eighth generation models widely rumored to be the long-awaited mid-engine Holy Grail.

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