

January 2022

## This Months Articles

- C7 Cracked Rims
- Travel: Destinations:
- Recipes: New Years
- Trivia: Pace cars
- The Rarest Corvette
- News: Kentucky Tornado Devastation

I tool my 100,000 dollars and bought a new Corvette, a lot of Cocaine and spent the rest on foolishness ....

George Jones

Corvette! ...You will run out of courage long before you run out of pedal

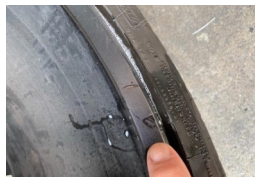
## Happy New Year !

As we've turned the page on 2021, we start the count down towards spring when we can once again enjoy time in our beautiful cars. Winter in New England is a long hall and makes us appreciate the warmer weather that much more. And while some of you drive your Corvette's year round (high fives) the majority are tucked away and we are left with the thoughts and promises of warm summer days and nights ahead. As 2022 starts coming into focus, we're working on putting a diverse and enjoyable season full of trips to be enjoyed together. It's our plan on having at least one major caravan event each month, April thru November obviously weather permitting. In addition we'll be organizing several shorter events each month for those whom are constrained on time or distance. New England has many exciting destinations and places that are perfect for Caravans and group get togethers. Some of the events might be a little different than you are used to, but that's the fun part! Enjoying different and unique things. A Corvette night at a Drive In ! A Scavenger hunt. A huge Corvette only event coordinated with our surrounding state's neighboring clubs. Perhaps even an event featuring us as the guests of a Hollywood superstar! Stay tuned !



### C7 GS & Z06 Cracked Rim issue

. For those fortune enough to be able to say they own a C7 Grand Sport or a Z06 the beauty and performance of these world class cars is both amazing and truly breathtaking. Really they are the pinnacle of all the previous generations of Corvettes, less perhaps the Zr1. They don't come cheap and even before the pandemic spike in pricing they have always carried a premium price tag. However for some, the frustration of having to deal with the issue of racked and warped rims has been both expensive and irritating due to the lack of support from Chevrolet!



So lets dig into the issue, the cause and what if anything you can do about it if you've experienced it yourself.

Gm decided to forgo the traditional forged wheel setup on the C7 GS and Z06 and instead decided on cast alloy aluminum rims. Why? First off the process saves tons of money in production costs. The aluminum rim is 25-50% cheaper to make and uses a A-356 Aluminum which is only 50-60% as strong as forged alloy. The process is created by pouring hot molten metal into a mold and letting it cool. GM claims this change was to reduce unsprung weight (anything that is not supported by the suspension of the car) and add to the overall performance of the car and effected every Z06 from 2015-2019 and every GS from 2017 on. Now the standard forged wheels that all C7 sting-rays have are manufactured by a process that's called Forged hard pressing and this tried and true method give the wheels a uniformed interlocking granular structure and once its hammered into each wheel, it ensures a long life and close to true roundness for the life of the rim. But this

process is a costly and time consuming one even though this process is recommended for any car that uses a low profile tire (thin sidewall) and that forged wheels are the best solution to absorb the shock and vibrations transmitted to the wheel from the road. Now most C7's have a 36,000 mile bumper to bumper warranty and a majority of the rim issues were occurring within the first 5,000-10,000 miles, so you would think they would have fallen under the basic warranty coverage. But for some strange reason Chevrolet consistently denied these defective rim claims, instead telling owners that they should avoid pot holes and even going as far as saying that stress cracks are a normal part of cycling (driving) the vehicle over and over. The other insulting retort Chevrolet said was that if owners had been concerned about rim issues they could have purchased the tire and rim coverage for an additional \$1,000 at the time of purchase.. continued to page 2

## ... C7 GS Z06 Cracker Rim issue

... A hard slap in the face for anyone who was already laying out close to \$100,000 for the cost of the vehicle. Some owners have paid out \$6,000 to \$7,000 dollars out of pocket to get the rims straightened and fixed. As a result several class action lawsuits have been filed against GM from frustrated GS & Z06 owners. Most of these lawsuits have been dismissed, many on technicalities such as the reasoning behind the litigation, or in the language being used to explain what action they are asking the court to partake. But there is one case that is still ongoing and you may even be able to join the plaintiffs. (the law firm still active in the lawsuit as of today is listed at the end of the article) So while we are all amazed at the level of engineering that goes into these incredible performing cars its rather disheartening to know that Chevrolet both cut corners to save money during the manufacturing process and then didn't stand up and admit the error when the time came to take care of the loyal owners, which in most cases were repeat Corvette buyers. Case after case of documented owners going to the dealerships complaining of vibrations at cruising speed and having the dealership telling them that the vibration was a result of the wheels being out of round and then doing nothing about it. Zero recalls or service bulletins have ever been issued for this problem and to this day the answers owners are hearing is the same. Avoid pot holes and be more careful in your driving. There's another solution to this issue, but carries a more expensive answer to owners. Many aftermarket manufactures make replacement forged rims for the GS and Z06 and utilize solid billet forging in their construction. Forgeline.com and Finnspeed.com are a couple of the best and offer numerous forged styled aftermarket rims in all colors and finishes. But be prepared to dish out a lot of coin, as they don't come cheap! But they are made in the USA and not in China where the alloy OEM Rims were manufactured. And for those wondering, yes a run flat tire does add additional stress to a rim due to the sidewall firmness and harder tire compound.

**Current open class action lawsuits:**  
**contact: Kehoe Law Firm Philadelphia PA.** Also contacting your local BBB is another option, that has netted positive results for some.



### Now C8 wheels are subject to a different type of issue.

GM has issued a service update on certain C8 alloy wheels for porosity (visible holes) While not posing an immediate safety risk, owners are complaining about large unsightly holes in the rims. GM dealerships have been instructed to inspect and replace any rims with such visible holes



Approximately 10% of the 2020-2021 total Corvette production may be effected. At least this time GM is acknowledging and addressing the issue. But it also makes one wonder why GM has offered zero support for the much larger C7 issue. There were 26,780 C7 Grand Sports produced from 2017-2019 and 39,980 C7 Z06's produced from 2015-2019 and every one came with Aluminum forged wheels,

There were 20,368 2020 C8's and 26,212 2021 C8's produced. Doesn't make much sense

## E-Ray... the next big announcement

In November, Chevrolet announced the worst kept secret in the C8 world with the Z06 reveal ! And while final details such as price and yearly expected production numbers aren't even out yet, Chevy has been busy simultaneously developing the next level of performance, the E-Ray Corvette hybrid (can't believe I'm saying Corvette Hybrid) Recent un camouflaged pictures are now showing up of the not yet announced hybrid model.



It's rumored to be positioned as the replacement for the GS and will be based off the existing base C8 with two electric motors added to the front wheels. Potentially giving the vehicle over 1000 HP with the rear wheel power coming from the standard C8's existing LT2 engine producing 490 HP, instead of the Z06's LT6 650HP engine. Rumor is that the yet to be announced top of the line Zora model (positioned as the C7 ZR1 replacement) will feature the same hybrid driveline but have it coupled to a twin turbo LT6 producing somewhere in the neighborhood of 1300 HP.

Also the E-ray will be the first Corvette featuring all wheel drive, so the performance and handling numbers should be insanely off the charts. Price? \$135,000 -\$150,000 MSRP,

After the introduction of the Zora top of the line C8, Chevy's attention will turn to the C9 (already in the works) which is looking more and more like an all electric EV. And with the electric engines literally at either two or four corners of the car, and no longer hindered by engine placement, what will that lower body design look like?

*Someone once asked, what's the best viewing angle of a Mustang, My answer is always the same ..In the rear view mirror*

## Corvette C5 Fuel gauge issue

For some C5 owners one of the most annoying occurrences is the ever frustrating fuel gauge reading half full even after fill up issue. I know some C5 owners in our group have had this occur and it has been a known problem for some time now.

C5's have two fuel tanks, (as do C6's & C7's) one on each side behind and below the interior seats. Over time Sulfur from the gas builds up on the fuel tank sending unit causing it to not show the correct fuel level in that tank or if on both, not show at all. The fuel gauge in the dash takes the levels of both tanks and collectively

shows them together. So if one unit isn't registering it will show you with only a half a tank even after you fill the car completely. (a cross over line allows you to fill both tanks thru only one gas tank door icyww)

The past remedy has been to completely remove the tanks and replace the sending units (if one is bad the other isn't far behind) and this repair is a very costly one, somewhere between \$3,000 -\$4,000. and your car is down for a week or more!

But there is another option and it costs thousands less than having to replace the sending units. Its readily available for about \$9 a bottle and it works!

Its called Chevron with Decron additive and you simply add it into your fuel tank and let it do its thing. It will dissolve the sulfur deposits within just a few fill ups and it will also help clean your fuel injection system at the same time and its available at any local parts store.



**Trivia: What was the first Year the Corvette served as the Pace car for the Indianapolis 500 and how many were produced?**

Answer is on the bottom of page 6

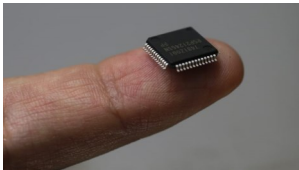


## What good is dip without any Chips

The Destination section will return next month

As 2021 comes to a close, Covid19 is still reeking havoc on all of us. If you or a member of your family hasn't been effected by this horrible pandemic directly, you most certainly have felt the effects and disruptions in your every day life. Shutdowns, lost wages, empty shelves, the cost of goods skyrocketing ! The list goes on and on and It has also effected just about every industry worldwide, with the automotive industry being no exception. In fact the automotive industry has been one of the hardest hit, with Covid costing the industry over 250 Billion dollars in 2021 alone. Its effected every level, starting with production and distribution and ending at the local dealerships with empty car lots.

One area that has decimated the automotive industry is the computer chip shortage. Yes Covid has impacted the computer industry as well, but more indirectly than directly. Back in 2020 when numerous Covid shutdowns kept people from going out and millions stayed home. The demand for electronic devices sky rocketed causing the need for computer chips to power and control the new sudden stay at home demand for the new cell phones, appliances, TV's and anything that gets plugged into an outlet.



Yes the chips in your toaster or phone or laptop in many cases are similar to the chips that are in your car or truck. And while a toaster only has one chip, a typical new car or truck has over 100 chips, controlling everything from

your ignition key to anything that has a button on the dash. Computer semi conductor chip production plants (there are 35 world wide) switched from making automotive chips to small device chips to meet the sudden new demand for home and personnel electronic devices. People weren't commuting or driving their cars, so automotive manufacturers cut way back their new car production to match

The low demand. They cancelled millions of new chip orders from the manufacturers...

But as the new vaccines became available in record time, the world opened back up and the sudden demand for newer replacement vehicles started! The chip shortage started to appear rather quickly once demand for new cars sky rocketed up. Car manufacturers ran back to the semi conductor manufacturers asking them to once again produce the chips their new cars needed



But it was too late, as the semi conductor plants had retooled to produce small electronic device chips replacing the cancelled automotive orders. Soon inventory levels at the dealership lots shrank to nothing with little to no new cars replacing the quickly sold ones. Chip supply was extremely limited and couldn't match manufacturers needs, so thousands of new partially built vehicles literally sat idol awaiting the arrival of the precious chips. The forecast is that the chip supply will get better at some point in 2022. But with the world dealing with what seems like daily Covid cause and effects, its anybody's guess how accurate that date is though.

## Corvette Caravan 2024

We're attempting to organize a one day 2022 mid-summer Corvette only car show that would bring together Corvette clubs from all 6 New England States in anticipation of the 2024 Caravan. It would give us an opportunity to meet face to face with members of other area clubs.



*Corvette: Sorry is the fool who buy's the Corvette to get the girl and only ends up getting the mechanic ...*

*Eddie Vetter*

### INGREDIENTS

6 tablespoons Ketel One vodka  
1/2 cup bloody Mary mix (such as Mr & Mrs T "Original")  
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
1 teaspoon bread-and-butter pickle juice  
1/2 tablespoon prepared horseradish  
3 dashes hot sauce  
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice  
pinch of celery salt  
pinch of black pepper

### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons minced green onion  
1 cup cooked crabmeat, finely chopped  
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs  
1/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
1 egg, beaten  
1 teaspoon lemon juice  
1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
1 1/2 pounds fresh button mushrooms, stems removed  
1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
1/4 cup dry white wine  
Vegetable oil, for frying

### Ingredients

18 Oreo cookies  
1 1/2 cups pancake mix  
1 egg  
3/4 cup milk  
2 teaspoons vegetable oil plus more for frying  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 cup powdered sugar  
raspberry sauce optional

### Best Hangover Bloody Mary

#### DIRECTIONS:

Fill a tall glass with ice. Add Bloody Mary mix (I prefer Mr. T's premix) Add Vodka, Worcester Sauce, Pickle juice, Horseradish, Lemon juice and finally hot sauce to desired spice level. Sprinkle with Celery salt and a little pepper Garnish with Beef jerky or Celery

Enjoy and Remember to take 2 aspirin the night before you go to bed



### Crab Stuffed Mushrooms

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a skillet; cook and stir green onion until softened, about 2 minutes. Transfer green onion to a bowl. Stir in crabmeat, bread crumbs, 1/4 cup Monterey Jack cheese, egg, lemon juice, and dill weed until well mixed. Pour 1/2 cup melted butter in a 9x13-inch baking dish; turn mushroom caps in butter to coat. Fill mushroom caps with the crab mixture and sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese. Pour white wine into baking dish. Bake in preheated oven until cheese is melted and lightly brown, 15 to 20 minutes.



### Deep Fried Oreos

#### Directions:

Heat 3 inches of oil in a deep pot to 350 degrees F. Place the pancake mix, egg, milk, 2 teaspoons vegetable oil and vanilla extract in a bowl. Stir to combine. Dip each Oreo into the batter, then place in the oil. Cook for 3-4 minutes, turning occasionally, until golden brown all over. Place the Oreos on a serving plate and sift powdered sugar over the top. Serve immediately with a side of raspberry sauce if desired.







### Rarest of the Rare

If you thought the 1963 Grand Sport was rare, then you'll be blown away by the 1969 Corvette ZL1! GM only produced two examples of this beastly Corvette, and only one of these was ever fully documented by GM. The car featured an engine built as a joint venture between Chevrolet and McLaren for use in the SCCA's "Canadian-American Challenge Cup Series." Officially rated at 430BHP, it has since been proved that the mighty 427 cubic-engine produced between 560 and 585 horsepower, making it the most powerful Corvette of its day. Given its high price tag combined with changing emission standards for the 1970 model year, the 1969 ZL1 was a "one and done" model year offering, making this survivor an extremely valuable commodity indeed!

### Midwest Tornado Devastation

As everyone is aware the Midwest part of our country was devastated by record breaking storms and massive tornadoes recently. While there are numerous relief organizations on the ground trying to do everything possible to help! We can do our part by contributing to any one of them to further help in their incredible mission. On our website there are three of the biggest organizations listed that you can directly contribute too. We'll continue to pray and watch as in time these area's will be built back to what they once were and more!

**Bowling Green Kentucky Production Plant Update:** As of the last update, 122 C8's were destroyed while still on the production line! According to numerous sources, these cars will be all scrapped and their placement (with same serial numbers) will be put to the very front of production once the plant reopens and is back up and running. December 20 is the projected restart date for a limited production, with full double shift startup scheduled the following week. Effected Chevrolet dealerships have told to update the 122 customers with new estimated delivery dates and that they will be the priority once the plant reopens. The first replacement C8 rolled off the line on Dec 20th

While The NCM itself wasn't effected directly, the NCM motorsports park sustained heavy damage and the new C8's parked there awaiting shipment were also damaged to different levels. These will be assessed and either repaired or scrapped depending upon the damage.



Trivia Answer: 1978 was the first year for the Chevy Corvette to serve as the Indianapolis 500 pace car. It was a special 25th anniversary edition. Each of the then 6502 Chevrolet dealerships had the option to receive one of these commemorative cars. And as some of the smaller dealerships refused, these allocated cars ended up in the private collections of larger dealership owners and were not sold until many years later. The cars came from production without the decals applied, leaving it up to the eventual owners as to whether they wanted the decals on the car. To this day there are several original 1978 Pace Car editions with less than 500 miles. This is also one of the most bootleg copied special edition Corvettes of all time and the only true authentic way of telling if one was the real deal or not, was the 8th digit of the VIN had to be a 9 instead of all the other 78's that the 8th digit was a 4