

Seat Belts in Six Colors. Really?

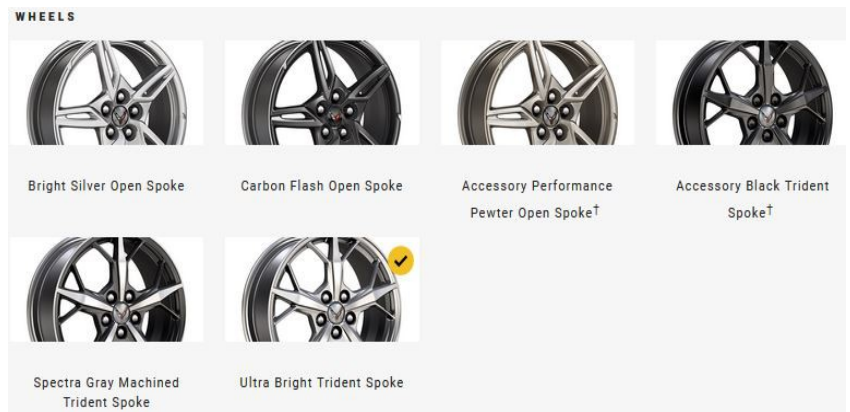
Story by Bob Gardner

Photos by Keith E. Jacobson and Chevrolet

That's what Motor Trend thinks makes the new Corvette, the C8, better. With the C8 you can choose seat belts in red, yellow, orange (oh my!), blue, tan, and yes black. This plethora of choices is emblematic of the new marketing for the Corvette. Everything is a la carte. Everything is negotiable. Everything is ka-ching, ka-ching. According to MT, this means that GM is FINALLY thinking like Porsche. And this is a good thing.



Let's consider this. The C8 shopper can now choose from: 12 exterior colors (Remember when there was White and White?), six wheel designs, four brake caliper colors, and different types of seats. You can personalize your Corvette in countless ways and that's exactly the marketing model for the 911. Except that the 911 buyer has a choice of NINE different colored seat belts. Add to that the options in power train, tires, suspension, and brakes that are coming.



OK, then let's look at the numbers. In 2007, the average Porsche Carrera buyer went for \$8100 in optional goodies, about 11% over the base price. Fast forward to 2019 and the same buyer is now opting to the tune of \$20,000, more than 20% over the base. The mid-engine swap was a huge step for GM but this new marketing scheme will overshadow it. "More customizable and configurable than ever, the C8 Corvette is clearly not...a Chevy." Perhaps we're coming to the day when Corvette is its own brand, separate from the Chevy showrooms and the expectations for price and service, and quality we've long complained about. Drive your \$75,000 performance sports car to the dealer only to find out that their ONLY Corvette technician is on oil changes today and unavailable. But...maybe that's not such a bad thing. To paraphrase MT, maybe we're right to demand tires that don't wear out after 20,000 miles.

GM is right to strive to offer us a sports car that has high aspirations yet is relatively affordable, modern, relevant, and still uniquely American. But does that mean “obliterating the tired old boomer-era sacred cows?” Was the Corvette “trapped by history” as MT opines, still cruising with muscle cars down Woodward Avenue? Perhaps. I guess time will tell.



Corvette’s cruise down Woodward Avenue during the Woodward Dream Cruise 2019

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN





NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM



More than 60 years of racing heritage helped set the stage for the most important debut in Corvette's racing history tonight, as Chevy's first mid-engine GTLM race car – the Corvette C8.R – made its surprise debut alongside the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray convertible at the Kennedy Space Center. The C8.R and Corvette Stingray represent a true technology transfer, taking lessons from the street straight to the track and vice versa.

“The C8.R is much more than just a race-tuned version of the 2020 Corvette Stingray. It's a culmination of many years of testing and development between GM Design, Propulsion, Engineering and the Corvette Racing team,” said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of Performance and Motorsports. “The collaboration between these teams has allowed us to take these vehicles' performance to the next level, both on the street and the track.”

With its tremendous success on the track over the last 20 years, Corvette Racing has helped push the development, performance and popularity of Corvette's top-line performance cars on race tracks across the world.

Since 1999, Corvette Racing has won 107 races – the most of any professional sports car team in North America – including 13 Team championships and 12 Driver and Manufacturer titles. In 2015, Corvette Racing became the first sports car team in 15 years win endurance racing's Triple Crown – victories at Rolex 24 at Daytona, Twelve Hours of Sebring and 24 Hours of Le Mans – in the same season.



The C8.R No. 4 car dons a new silver livery, inspired by the color of iconic Corvette concepts such as the 1973 Chevrolet Aerovette and the 1959 Corvette Stingray Racer. This car also features yellow accents.

Complementing the No. 4 vehicle is the No. 3 car which will feature a traditional yellow color scheme with silver accents that continues the lineage of the successful GTLM racing Corvettes of the past 20 years.

The C8.R will make its racing debut at Rolex 24 at Daytona in January 2020.



The Corvette C8.R is Chevy's first mid-engine GTLM race car. The No. 4 car dons a new silver livery, inspired by the color of iconic Corvette concepts. The No. 3 car will feature a traditional yellow color scheme with silver accents.

BASS PRO ~ NO MO'

Story and Photos by Keith E. Jacobson



It seems with the first Mass Cruisers/Bass Pro show of the year the cruising season kicks off. On the other end, for me, their final show of the year signals the end of the year... though there are still some events on the calendar. Thursday, October 24, was the final event of the year. Even though a week early it was their Halloween cruise. The weather couldn't have been any better sunny and warm with a slight breeze for most of the event and Corvettes were out in force. My car isn't put away...yet, but my thoughts have already turned to spring and a return to Patriot Place.



APPLE PICKING TIME !!!

FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE

Story By "SMOKEN" Mal Smith

First of all, thank you Bruce and Sue for putting together such a wonderful cruise on Sunday, October 20. Somehow, you managed to get a beautiful day for cruisin'. We had 17 Corvettes and a beautiful white Ferrari join together for a cruise from Franklin to the Berlin Apple Orchard. The cruise was absolutely delightful with some old back roads incorporated into the event. It was amazing that all of the vehicles managed to stay together with only one mishap with three cars taking a little tour of their own. Time brought us all together at the orchard.



The foliage was beautiful and was still in full bloom. Just look at some of these photos, it shows what a great time we had.



PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON



PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON



PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON

Once we were all at the apple orchard we visited with the animals that were on site. There were llamas, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, roosters, just want to mention we all thought of our member Les “Rooster” Brown, when the rooster did his cock-a-doodle-do, ostrich, and a few others. Boy did they stink!!!! PU!



PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON

We visited the store and walked the grounds a bit. Most of us took a wagon ride to the orchards and picked some apples. It seems we all ate a few apples along the way just to make sure they were good to bring home.



From the Berlin Apple Orchard, we headed to the International restaurant in Bolton. It was a 15 minute ride through very beautiful back roads. We had our own room at the restaurant which made it nice. The food selection was very nice and everyone had a great meal.



Again, thanks to our host and hostess, Bruce and Sue Kolovson. Nice job! Thanks to all who attended making it a wonderful day for all.

FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

Story and Photos by Bob Gardner



The Friends of Franklin is a private charity which has for years assembled and distributed food and gifts to Franklin families in distress around the major holidays ... Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Over the years the extent of the charity has grown as the town has changed. The number of families facing hardship at the holiday has grown from under 100 to well over 200 today. I don't know exactly when Eastern Mass Corvette Club became involved with the distributions but my earliest picture was taken on my front steps is 2005. We began with a few couples/members helping out and like the charity it's grown.



For a long time we did both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Most years we kicked off our effort with a breakfast here at our house. Those gatherings usually featured homemade

goodies from Barbara's kitchen, coffee, juice, etc. We all crammed into the kitchen, munching and chatting until it was time to depart. Prior to departure I always took a photograph of everyone on our front steps. That earliest photo I mentioned includes the O'Connors, the Campopianos, the Hutchings, and the Taglientis. Over the years the faces changed people came and went. Some could do Thanksgiving but not Christmas ... some the reverse. There were years I could not make it and Joe O'Connor led the group. We went rain or shine....or snow. Yes, some years there was snow, lots of snow. Some members came alone others with their spouses. Members often brought one of their children or their grandchildren to help with the labor. It was a good time.



The routine was always the same though the locations changed. We'd pick up our boxes and bags of food – a holiday dinner complete with vegetables, turkey, and juice. Volunteers would load each of our vehicles with as many families' deliveries as possible. Trucks were really popular. At Christmas there were also gifts for the children donated by the townsfolk. We had to go to a separate spot to pick them up. Then we headed out as a group to make deliveries. Over the years it evolved that the Friends looked for EMCC to deliver to Franklin's garden apartments where many of the needy were concentrated. This was always complicated by locked doors and families not at home and of course, stairs. We became highly organized and helped each other haul in the stuff. Sometimes the recipients were extremely grateful with their need obvious. Other times not so much. Whatever, like the US Post Office, we got our deliveries through, wished them a happy holiday, and headed home to watch the Patriots game.



I used to say that, "All you'll feel is good." And it was true. I enjoyed it more than anyone. Often going back again and again to make additional deliveries. Which makes it all the harder for me to report to the membership that Barbara and I will no longer be hosting the Friends of Franklin for EMCC. Time and knees wait for no man. It's just gotten to be too much for us here at Chez Gardner.

I hope the club's support of this worthwhile event will continue; that someone will organize and host it in our place or that individual members will decide to show up Sunday and make a few deliveries for old times' sake. Barbara and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED over the years. Thank you for coming to our home. Thank you for lugging boxes upstairs. Thank you for wading through hip-deep snow or slipping and sliding in the slush. Thank you. Thank you.



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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Andy Bleadon ~ 28

Alan Cohen ~ 27

Fran Favara ~ 25

Joe Lorusso II ~ 25

Joe Mello ~ 15

Sam Pappas ~ 16

Bill Schroeder ~ 14

Bob Smith ~ 22

EMCC Membership

As of August 2019 we have 80 paid members, 2 associate, and 3 honorary

Next Business Meeting

Monday - November 4th at 7:00 PM

at Conrad's, 905 Main Street, Walpole

Come early at 6:00 to enjoy dinner & schmoozing

**Eastern Mass Corvette Club is a non-profit social club
for Corvette owners**

**We meet at 7:00 PM on the first Monday of every
month at
Conrad's - 905 Main Street, Walpole, MA**

PLEASE JOIN US !!!

**E.M.C.C.
P.O. Box 291
Medfield, MA 02052**

WEBSITE: easternmasscorvetteclub.org

**“WHERE YOU COME FOR THE CARS ...
BUT STAY FOR THE PEOPLE”**



PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON

Our member Doug Burchesky came up with the idea for the chart shown below. If you would like to submit information to be included, his E mail is listed below.

EMCC Bragging Rights

EMCC members: below is a chart where we can brag about our Vettes. This is just the start of the Bragging Rights table that can be updated monthly as needed. Please submit any corrections, revisions, additions, details, or new categories that you wish to contribute to the EMCC Bragging Rights. Example, expect to see frequent changes to the Newest Corvette category.

| EMCC Corvette | Bragging | Rights |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | Owner | Details |
| Newest Vette | | |
| Oldest Vette | | |
| Most miles on current Vette | Doug Burchesky | 1991 FX3 (151,111 miles) |
| Most miles on former Vette | Jim Gable | (206,000 miles) |
| Longest road trip with Vette | | |
| Most HP | | |
| Fastest | | |
| Longest member of EMCC | | |
| Most Corvettes owned | | |
| Most Corvettes currently | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Please submit any updates to Doug (burcheskys@gmail.com)

DOES IT WORK?



LAST LAUGHS



SEE YOU ON THE ROAD



The last Bass Pro of the year is over and the mornings are getting frosty. The big events are pretty much over and cruising season 2019 is rapidly drawing to a close. Soon my Miata and Corvette will be put away for the winter ... makes me a little sad. But as Sinatra said... [it was a very good year.](#)

I put more miles on my Vette this year than any year since I have owned it. The big trip to Michigan for the Woodward Dream Cruise and the club's Columbus Day weekend cruise to Montreal were the most intense events I attended, and both were amazing. There were the assorted cruise events throughout the season and again I tried to attend as many different events as possible to see a variety of vehicles.

During the off season the club is still very active and I hope to see many of you at EMCC events during the dark cold months. Funny ... the car isn't put away yet and I am already looking forward to spring and seeing who shows up with the first C8 in our group.

You may have noticed that there was no Montreal article in this issue. It was such a grand event that I will publish a special supplement for that event that will follow shortly.

I am planning to attend the [Kingston Corvette Invasion](#) in Ontario and you are all invited. You should have all received an E mail with the details. It will be from June 18-21, 2020. If you have any interest see me asap ... it will be sold out.

Thanks to all who have made this a great year and thanks to those who have contributed to this issue :

Mal for Vettes to Vettes article with photo support from Bob G., Gerry C., and Pat Nagle
Bob G. for his thoughts/story on the C8

Mal for our Fall Foliage Cruise story with photo support from Sue and Bruce Kolovson and me

Bob G. for his nice article about Friends of Franklin

Doug B. for coming up with the idea of the "Bragging Rights" chart.

Wishing everyone a safe Halloween and happy November !!!

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU !!!



Thanks Bill S. for the awesome photo !!!

SEE YOU ON THE ROAD ... KAMERA KEITH

SAVE THE WAVE

