

# The Vette Gazette

## OCC 2020 Board

President: Dennis Osterhorn

Vice President– Gary Messenger

Treasurer– Cheryl Osterhorn

Sgt. At Arms– Tome Nickelson

Membership– Mike and Suzanne  
Koenen

Administrative Assistant– Kenneth  
Schaeffler

### Volunteers:

Club Outreach: Esther Brewer

Trash Pick-up– Dick and Karen  
Mericle

Club Historian– Karen Mericle

Webmaster– Rick Poepping

NCM Ambassador– Byrle Layman

Facebook Admin: Randy Vollmer

Wednesday Dinner Club– Jan and  
Doug Flader

Newsletter Editor– Larry Dann

### OCC Website:

[www.occofstl.com](http://www.occofstl.com)



**Spring Time equals Top Down!**

For Additional Information...

**groupworks™**

### Mailing Address:

OCC of St. Louis, P.O. Box 725, Manchester, MO 63011

**OCC Meetings:** Are held on the **2nd Tuesday of every Month** and **are open to all members and guests.**

### **Our Next Meeting Will Be: April 13. Meeting Location:**

Jilly's Café & Steakhouse, 1630 Gravois Road, High Ridge, MO 63049, Phone: (636) 449-4500

[www.jillyscafeandsteakhouse.com](http://www.jillyscafeandsteakhouse.com) (for directions, go to their website and click on "Contact Us" at the top of the page)

# The Presidents Report ... Dennis Osterhorn



I would like to take a moment and thank those members who attended in person the meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> and to those few who participate by Zoom. I believe we had a decent group of members along with one visitor attend and we covered a lot of topics that night since we have not been meeting since the first of the year.

It was interesting to hear how many members have received or scheduling to receive their Covid 19 shot. As they keep saying we all need to do our part if we are going to whip this. I guess if your one who has yet to receive your shot(s) hang in there and keep trying to get an appointment.

As we conducted the Zoom meeting at Jilly's we had some problems with the sound not being loud of enough to hear even using the microphone., I will look into that to see if we can rectify this. As I mentioned earlier on, we are assessing the use of Zoom at our meetings since it becomes a little difficult trying to get everything setup and working together. I will be discussing this with the board going forward on the continuation of Zoom during the summer months and as things settle out with this pandemic and more members will join us at Jilly's.

As I mentioned at the meeting, we are updating our lines of communication with GroupWorks and the OCC Website. If you know of a potential member, please direct them to our OCC Website since this has the latest UpToDate information about the club. One thing it allows them to review our Previous Newsletters to understand what we are doing and review some past events. A lot of time and effort went into this "NEW" Website and we should promote it to define our club.

***A special thank you goes out to Byrle Layman as he donated the \$500.00 fee for this years OCC Banner at the NCM. In my opinion Byrle is one of the "BEST NCM Ambassador the club has had. He is well liked and popular with the folks there at the museum. Thank You Byrle!***

A couple upcoming events in the works:

- 1) **The St Louis Auto Show April 8<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>** please contact Jim if you want to participate with your car.
- 2) **The Veiled Prophet Parade Downtown St Louis July 3<sup>rd</sup>** we can right now have 12 cars right now and the list is almost full Should we need to increase I will check
- 3) **The Alton Memorial Day Parade** Please check groupworks as Fred Gronemeier will update as it gets closer.
- 4) **NCM Bash in Bowling Green KY APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 24th**

Also, let us not forget the OCC Trash Pick up dates these will be posted on GroupWorks our **first pickup is April 11<sup>th</sup>**. We appreciate if we can more than the 4 or 5 usual people.

The **OCC Picnic is "ON" for October 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the Cliff Cave Park in South County. Bigger Pavilion, Better Restrooms, Blacktop parking and "Level" ground. Please keeping checking Groupworks for latest information. Also this year the event will be catered and the Club will pay for it.

Look to see you at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at Jilly's.

## March 2021 Meeting Minutes

Kenneth Schaeffler, Administrative Assistant



March 9, 2021

Meeting Location – Jilly's and ZOOM - 7:30

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Rod Silvagni and Jim Butler our Club Sponser.

Board and Volunteers present: Dennis & Cheryl Osterhorn, Gary Messenger, Randy Vollmer, Karen Mericle, Mike & Suzanne Koenen, Byrle Layman (ZOOM), Tom Nicholson, Larry Dann, Esther Brewer & Ken Schaeffler

There were about 20 - 22 members participating in the meeting as well. Thanks to those members for taking the time and making the effort to join in on the ZOOM addition to the meeting.

Meeting called to order by President, Dennis Osterhorn.

Dennis Osterhorn presented opening statement:

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming out tonight at Jilly's for our March Meeting and to those who are attending on Zoom.

Dennis presented last years Board and Volunteers with a gift of appreciation.

As many of you know we did last month's meeting by Zoom due to the weather. In a way I was happy to see some of the members attend, we would always like to see more. We will continue to see if Zoom will work for the club. The use of Zoom for a meeting will be evaluated each month and will be posted in Groupworks as of the status.

The OCC Board and I are always looking for ways to get more members to attend the meetings. So again "THANK YOU" for attending our monthly meetings.

Another Key announcement as we start off to night is the passing of OCC member Rod Silvagni and Jim Butler our Club Sponsor. The entire membership expresses our condolences to their families.

### TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Groupworks**—An excellent way to get a post out quickly if something is going on in the near future or information about someone.

We can schedule events out in the future so you can update your personal calendars.

Under Members---You can get information on members if you wish to contact them directly

We have completely updated the **OCC website** to help attract potential new members.

We set up an OCC **ZOOM account** to help to allow the board to communicate more often but also allow members who cannot attend a meeting in person but be part through Zoom.

In addition, our Membership team is updating the Photo Directory constantly. I realize that some things will change but some of this information has been in for months /years----folks you need to review your own information to make sure it is correct. They can only work with the information they have from "you."

As you know for the safety of all members, we had to cancel the OCC Picnic and Christmas party last year, **However**, I would like to go forward with these two events this year and will be working with the board to make these happen. Does anyone have some suggestions they would like to bring up on these two events?

One other thing for the time being we stopped the 50/50 for safety reasons of handling money. We are now doing a \$50 attendance prize for one person at the actual Jilly's meeting. As you see tonight each member and associate in attendance will get a ticket to be drawn later for the \$50.00

I would appreciate if more volunteers would come out to support Karen & Dick on the Trash Pickup events. It only takes 1 to 1-1/2 hours max to participate in this event.  
It was brought to my attention about having someone be the social director for the club to help set up and arrange club events or at least assist another member. Any thoughts? So, something to think about going forward. Anybody interested????

Again, thank you for taking time to come out to our monthly meeting.

### **TREASURERS REPORT – Cheryl Osterhorn**

Jim Butler submitted his check as Club Sponsor. Cheryl presented the status of club funds. Motion to accept was made by Rich Brewer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Flader.

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### **MEMBERSHIP – Mike and Suzanne**

Membership is down this year (2021). Membership will remain open until the end of May as decided by the Board. We have 49 paid members. Compare to 2020, we had 71 members paid and total membership was 127.

### **OUTREACH – Esther Brewer**

Bob Shissler is still using walker, but hope to move to a cane soon.

### **BY-LAWS UPDATE – Tom Nicholson**

Tom is working on an outline and draft. (Nothing reported at tonight's meeting).

### **NCM REPORT – Byrle Layman**

CLUB BANNER – The banner artwork has been submitted to NCM. Since no one submitted anything new, Dennis and Byrle reviewed last years submissions and finally came up the Club entry. **Special note to Byrle:** The OCC thanks you for donating the \$500.00 to the NCM for the OCC Banner display this year. Byrle continues to go above and beyond for the OCC. **A special Thanks goes out to you Byrle.**

CORVETTE STORE – The Corvette store is having a 10% off clearance sale. Some items are, such as dealer brochures (various years) are priced at \$2.70. Check out the sale items at [corvettestore.com/clearance](http://corvettestore.com/clearance). Free UPS economy shipping on orders of \$75.00 or more.

***OCC Trash Pick-Up is scheduled for Sunday April 11. It is a fun time and only takes an hour at most. Come and meet some of the other club members if you are new to the OCC. So come on out and support your club. Participation is key to our continued success. 8 AM at Antire Road and I-44 exit. Breakfast afterward.***



## UPCOMING EVENTS

BASH – April 22 thru 24, 2021. Registration is open. Many of the day trips are sold out. Anyone interested talk to Byrle for Hotel and event information.

THE DRAGON RUN – April 25 thru 28, 2021. Wait list is available.

BRANSON EXPERIENCE – Date to be determined. Sometime in June.

NCM KART PLEX – Reopening March 5, 2021. Fun afternoon of racing your friends in high-speed Go-Karts. Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM (Weather permitting). Safety equipment provided.

COLORADO SPRINGS – July 11 thru 16, 2021. Registration is not yet available.

### UPCOMING EVENTS – Gary Messenger

April 16 & 17, 2021; Branson Car Auction

Weekend of May 1, 2021; Lake Ozark Car Show and Magic Dragon. Car show to be held at Margaritaville (formerly Tan-Tar-A). It is a 2-day indoor show. Details regarding moving cars in and out will be forthcoming.

1<sup>st</sup> week in June; Museum in Motion event in Branson. He will verify date and time as well as provide information on Groupworks

The Lonestar Corvette Classic is scheduled for May 21-23, 2021. It is noted that there will be **NO track day** this year due to rising insurance costs.

May 1, 2021; Car and Truck show at St. Pius X church in Festus, Missouri.

May 28 & 29, 2021; Vettes4Vets car show on Friday and track day at Talladega Super Speedway on Saturday. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Please check Groupworks for updates to all of these upcoming events.

**Fred Gronemeier stated Alton will have their annual Memorial Day prade, check Groupworks for all information.**

### ST. LOUIS AUTO SHOW – Jim Ford

April 7 thru 10, 2021. Set-up for the event is Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Remember, ¼ tank of gas MAXIMUM to enter the facilities. COVID-19 mandates will be enforced, including masks and social distancing. Wider aisles. They will have plenty of hand sanitizer. *Parking will be reimbursed by the club for those entering their car and/or on the work schedule.* Bring garage receipt. We are in need of C-1's and C-2's for the event. Forms for working and car entries are on Groupworks. Download a copy and let Jim know of you're availability to work and/or enter your vehicle.

### New Members / 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors

Valerie Brendel attended the meeting as a guest of Art Delhougne. Valerie and her husband Tom are considering joining the club. They have a 2005 Red Coupe.

### Attendance Prize

Carol Gronemeier won this month's prize of \$50.00

Motion to adjourn was made by Walt Yeager, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Peeples Meeting adjourned at 8:40

***St. John's Gildehaus Annual Chicken Dinner is still on! It is a drive through event. March 14, 2021.***



## *The National Corvette Museum Report* *By Mr. Byrle Layman, NCM Ambassador*



Ambassadors report March 2021.

As I was trying to decide what to write this month my mind kept wandering back to past years and all the great road trips and events I have been able to take part in over the many years. (When you get old you do that a lot). Trips to Texas, the Black Hills Fun Fest and so much more, your mind becomes like a personal museum of memories and visions of the past,

The Corvette museum is much like a memory bank for preservation and conservation of our corvette "Americas Sports car" While the National Corvette Museum didn't open in its current location until 1994, there was an annex on Scottsville road where Puerto Vallarta is now located, The first members joined in 1989, five years before the NCM opened. I have heard discussions of these early members and how their vision for the museum took shape.

The museum has evolved into a world class for destination for visitors from all over the world. Who would have thought it would grow to cover several thousand feet of exhibit space and many acres of land along with its own race tracks.

I have had many exciting and fun trips to Bowling Green to visit and learn about our favorite sports car the CORVETTE.

You can experience the same by attending the Michelin Bash, April 22-24, 2021. Some events are sold out but there is still much to see and do. "ACT NOW",

Another fun event.

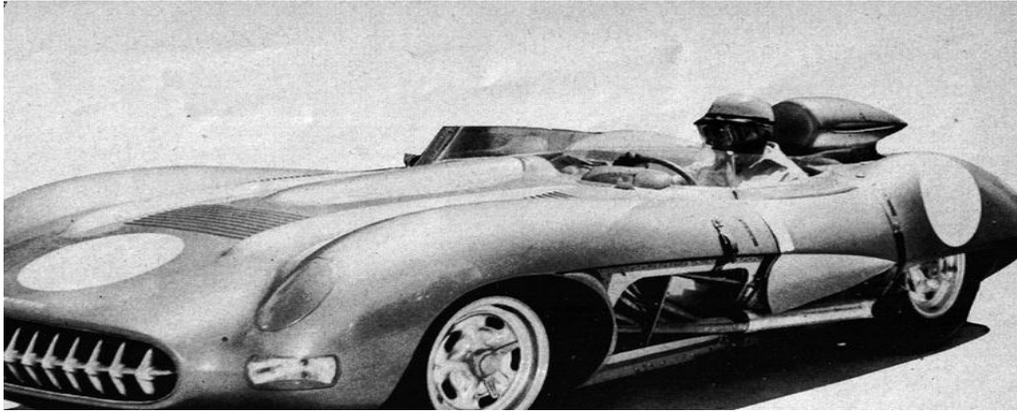
Branson Experience June TBD.

For information or questions contact: Bryce @ 270 777 4506 or Maci @ 270 467 8804.

As always Be Safe Out there.

And don't forget to wave.





This Day

March 23, 2021

Photo: as seen in Car and Driver magazine

AUTOMOTIVEHISTORY

# March 23, 1957 – Chevrolet Corvette SS



Although Chevrolet Corvette sales began to climb after the introduction of a V8 option in 1955, GM engineer Zora Arkus-Duntov saw a way to convince more buyers the Corvette was a true sports car: race it. He loaded up two stock Corvettes and a modified one and headed for the 1956 Daytona Speedweeks. The results were more than favorable. Race car driver John Fitch won the Sports Car division in one of the stock Corvettes, followed by Betty Skelton who took second place in the other. Duntov himself drove the modified Corvette in the Modified Sports Car division, which he won.

The success led to the entrance of four modified Corvettes in the 1956 12 hours of Sebring. Ed Cole, General Manager of Chevrolet, watched the action. To his dismay, the cars his team brought did not do well against the global competition. He reasoned only a Corvette designed specifically for racing would stand a chance at earning a win when pitted against the likes of Ferrari, Mercedes and other well tuned machines. His realization would result in the 1957 Corvette SS, the first Chevy to wear an SS badge.





Above: The 1957 Chevrolet Corvette SS at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. By Drew Lindberg CC BY 3.0,

When the order finally fell, engineers and designers had just six months to build the car before the next 12 Hours of Sebring. Ultimately the car was to race the 1957 24 Hours of Le Mans. The original mule car utilized a custom Mercedes 300 SL chassis. The Jaguar D-Type inspired its fiberglass body design. The full-spec car had a magnesium body, unlike the mule or production Corvettes. During testing, however, drivers found the fiberglass did a better job of insulating against excessive engine heat in the cockpit. Final drive train elements included 283 small block V8, a Borg Warner 4 speed manual transmission and 4-wheel drum brakes. It measured 168 inches and weighed just 1,850 pounds.

Juan Manuel Fangio and Carroll Shelby originally signed on to drive the car at Sebring in 1957, but both later asked to be released from their contracts. John Fitch and Piero Taruffi would fill in. It was on this day in 1957 that Fitch took the wheel following the Le Mans style start. He soon pitted for tires, then a coil wire, then a coil itself. Not long after that he headed to the pits again. Crew found that the bushings tying the rear lower trailing arms to the chassis had split due to improper installation. The Corvette SS retired after just 23 laps of its first and only race.

The next month the Automobile Manufacturers Association voted to enact a ban on motor racing for all of its member companies, this included Chevrolet. With the ban going effect on June 1, the SS had to be withdrawn from further racing, thus preventing it from having a shot at the 1957 24 Hours of Le Mans. The car did find its way to a track at least one more time. At the opening of the Daytona Motor Speedway in 1959, Duntov used the SS to set the fastest lap with a speed of 155 mph. The car now resides at the Indianapolis

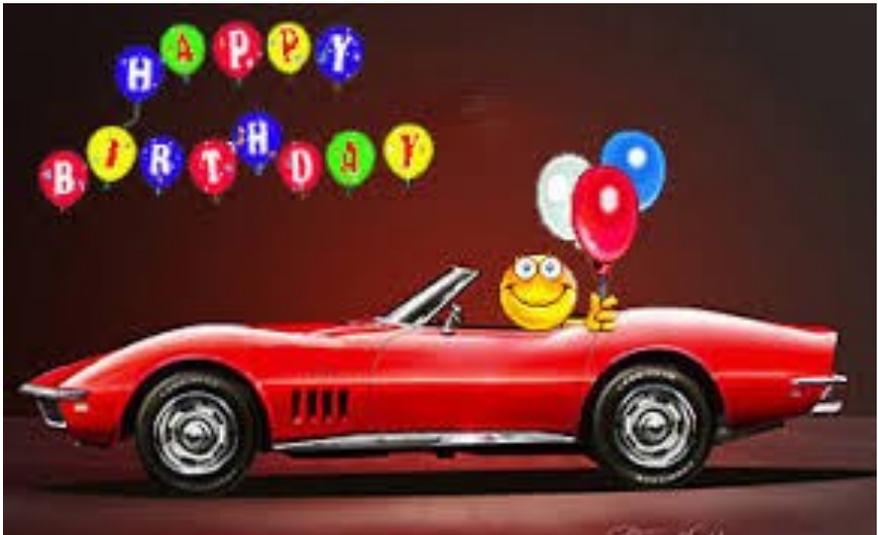
**Shared from: This Day in Automotive History**

March  
Birthdays

Rick Poepping 3/2  
Judy Silvagni 3/16  
Dennis Kinworthy 3/16  
Tom Dierkes 3/21  
Terri Ford 3/25

April Birthdays

Mike Manzelli 4/1  
Larry Dann 4/2  
Darlene Williams 4/2  
Cheryl Osterhorn 4/10  
Joe Stanton 4/13  
Fred Gronemeier 4/14  
Jerry Wilson 4/17  
Vince Miles 4/22



**Happy Birthday to Everyone!**  
**From all of your friends in the OCC!**



**Corvette Trivia!!**

For many, 1982 was a sad year in Corvette history. No manual transmission option was available for that model year, not even by special order!



**Until 2020 that is.....**

If you are in need of a new Corvette or vehicle of any type go and see our good friends at Jim Butler Chevrolet in Fenton in the Gravois Bluffs Complex!

