



High Desert Corvette Club

Newsletter March 2026

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President—Nathon Marker

Vice Pres.— Don Ginter

Secretary— Dee Ginter

Treasurer— Mike Zumwalt

Sgt At Arms— Bryce Woodall

**Activities—Mike & Judy
McClean**

Website—Walt Santos

**Membership—Roiann
Santos**

Newsletter—John Burgess

**Photographers—John
Burgess
Dee Ginter**

Sunshine—Debbie Scherrer

**Highway Clean up— Eric &
Miriam Lea**

Publicity— Rebecca Marker

**COHD—Chair Person
Harry Bongers**

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Well, here we are — February is already in the rearview mirror. It may be the shortest month of the year, but it never feels short when you look at everything we packed into it.

Even though it's still early in the year, our club hasn't slowed down one bit. The energy at our gatherings, the conversations, and the laughter are what make this group so special. The cars may bring us together, but it's the friendships and shared experiences that keep us coming back month after month.

As we shift gears into March, things really start building momentum. Longer days, more activity on the calendar, and plenty of opportunities to connect. If you've been thinking about getting more involved — helping organize an event, suggesting a cruise route, or inviting someone new to join us — now's a great time to jump in.

I'm especially looking forward to seeing strong participation from our members at Corvettes on the High Desert (COHD) coming up in June. It's one of the highlights of our year and a fantastic opportunity to showcase our club, our cars, and the camaraderie that makes HDCC what it is. The more members we have involved, the stronger and more impressive we are as a group.

Don't forget — our next business meeting is March 11. I hope to see a great turnout as we continue planning for the busy months ahead.

I'm excited about what's coming and even more excited to share it with all of you. Let's carry February's momentum straight into March and make it another month to remember.

See you on March 11.

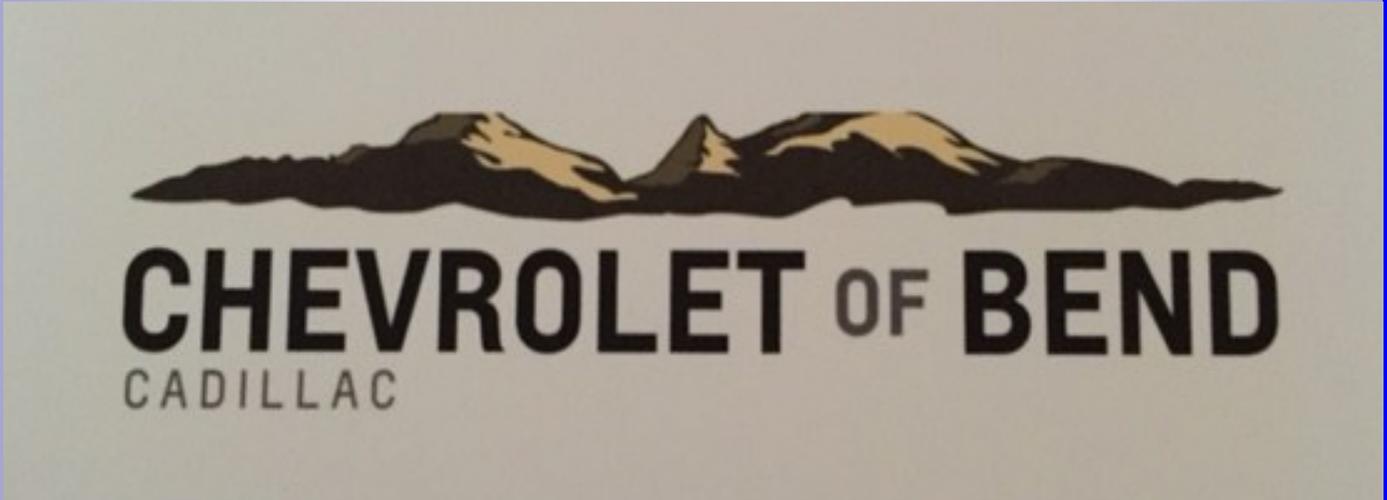
Nathon Marker

HDCC President





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March Birthdays

- Mar 1 LeeAnn Kaster
- Mar 5 Harry Bongers
- Mar 7 Fred Crowther
- Mar 9 Charlie Thomson
- Mar 15 Anne Riggins
- Mar 20 Sue Flanagan
- Mar 25 Lisa Bagwell
- Mar 28 Lori Schneider
- Mar 29 Doug Kunzman
- Mar 31 Todd Layport

March Anniversaries

- Mar 8 Mike & Mary Zumwalt

HDCC Events

- Mar 25 Social Night Time, Place YTBD
- Memorial Day Weekend Big Sky Corvette Meet Bozeman MT.
- June 12-14 Vette-A-Bratton Yakama WA
- June 19-21 Jacksonville Retreat
- June 26-27 COHD Bend OR
- June 30 National Corvette Day
- August 8 Corvettes on the Bay
- August 14-16 Wine Tour Eugene OR
- Sept 10-12 Corvettes on the Columbia

Highway Clean-up Dates

- April 12
- June 6
- Sept 12



Harry Bongers won the

50/50 Jackpot Drawing

In the amount of \$58.00

See Harry for low interest loans!!!!

On the lighter side.



The distance it takes for me to forget a number between 1 and 10



Thank you Dee Ginter!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



CORVETTE ODDS AND ENDS

C8 Corvette Transmission No Longer Built In Canada: As most everyone knows, the C8 [Corvette](#)'s eight-speed DCT is engineered and supplied by Tremec. It will still be produced by Tremec but will be made in Michigan. No word as to whether the company has resolved any of the problems inherent in the C8 transmission that has been a concern by many C8 owners.

SVE (Specialty Vehicle Engineering) Reveals 2026 Yenko/SC Corvette E-Ray With 1,564 HP
Go to SVE C8 Yenko for details. No information on pricing to date

Race car driver Jeff Gordon is the First to Build his Own Corvette ZR1X Engine. Jeff Gordon and his father were the first to build the ZR1X engine. He spent the day assembling the twin-turbo 5.5-Liter LT7 V8 engine that will go in his 2026 Corvette ZR1X. The cost to do so is \$9,995.00

2026 Corvette Gets New Blade Silver "Matte" Color

Dealer Mark up on ZR1X Some Chevy dealers are charging as much as \$250,000.00 markup on the ZR1X Corvette/ Remember it is still just a Corvette.

Will This Be the C9 Corvette??





Things To Ponder

Why do peanuts float in a regular coke and sink in a diet coke? Try it.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going? (taxes)

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

How DID THE MAN WHO MADE THE FIRST CLOCK KNOW WHAT TIME IT WAS?



World's highest-mileage Corvette has 773,000 miles but that's not even the wildest part about it

The world's highest-mileage Corvette has done over 770,000 miles, and yet there are even more things that make this a remarkable sports car. It's a 2000 [Chevrolet](#) Corvette C5, which its owner bought new in 1999 and kept for all of its life. Over the years, the C5 gave its owner very little trouble, and its reliability is evident thanks to the huge miles that it clocked up. Eventually, the car became a museum piece, and you can still visit it today, as a reminder to everyone of how reliable a sports car can be.

The owner of this [sports car](#) was Mark Blackwell, who bought it brand new back in 1999. At the time, he lived in Jacksonville, Florida, but his job required that he travel to parts of Georgia and South Florida daily. Rather than buy something more gas-friendly and sensible, Blackwell used his C5 as a [daily driver](#). Over 18 years of ownership, he was able to rack up 773,388 miles in the sports car. That equates to 275 trips between New York and Los Angeles. It also meant the car averaged around 100 miles a day, every day, for 18 years.

In 2017, the world's highest-mileage Corvette was [donated to the National Corvette Museum](#) for display. Incredibly, the wildest part of this [highest-mileage](#) Corvette isn't what you'd think. Under the hood, the C5 still has its original engine, an LS1 V8. That engine is good enough for 345hp and 350lb-ft of torque, with a 0-60mph time of 4.7 seconds. Only the head gasket needed replacing before the car was donated to the museum. With an average of 43,000 miles every year, it's crazy how reliable the car was. Despite its [age and high mileage](#), the sports car is still in superb condition. A minor scuff on the front bumper is the only evidence of any slight knock.



From Dee Ginter via Super Car Blondi



Should You Use Nitrogen In Your Tires?

Benefits of Nitrogen

The selling points are fairly straightforward: nitrogen-inflated tires maintain steady air pressure even during seasonal temperature fluctuations, improve fuel economy, extend tire life, and enhance driving safety. “Nitrogen molecules are larger than oxygen molecules, so in theory, the larger nitrogen molecules are supposed to leak more slowly,” says Jim DeLeo, of Hunter Engineering Company. “Nitrogen also does not contain moisture, which supposedly reduces corrosion and oxidation inside the tire and wheel.”

What Does The Science Say?

Scientific testing from multiple sources shows that the benefits of tires inflated with nitrogen may be real but negligible: Consumer Reports conducted a 12-month test of 31 nitrogen-filled tires. Those tires lost 2.2 psi, while traditional air-filled tires lost 3.5 psi, a difference of just 1.3 psi over an entire year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) tests found that nitrogen slows pressure loss slightly, while also reducing oxidation; however, this reduction is not enough to affect real-world tire life or rolling resistance. AAA testing noted that nitrogen-filled tires did not eliminate temperature-related pressure changes and didn’t make tires maintenance-free. According to AAA, “Since nitrogen does not completely eliminate temperature-related pressure changes under normal driving conditions, it is of little benefit to vehicle owners who properly maintain their tires.” Racing cars have used nitrogen-filled tires for years, primarily due to stability during extreme temperature swings and because nitrogen doesn’t support moisture or combustion.

If you understand that air is already 78 percent nitrogen, and it’s virtually impossible to evacuate all of the air from a tire assembly. That makes it impractical to try filling a tire with 100 percent pure nitrogen

I wonder how many tire shops carry nitrogen as an option. COSTCO does but did not know it was an additional charge.

From Family Handy Man Magazine



Handy C3 | Corvette Ramp Truck Up For Sale In Arizona



It is a [C3 Corvette](#) ramp truck looking for a new home at an asking price of seven grand. This particular Corvette sits atop a heavy-duty [Chevy C30](#) truck frame. Someone, somewhere, took the iconic fiberglass skin of America's sports car and plopped it onto the backbone of a workhorse. Under the hood resides a 400 cubic-inch Small Block Chevy, paired with a rebuilt TH400 automatic transmission.

From GM Authority

Tires, How Long Do They Last?

Can we talk tire safety? Corvettes with low miles are clearly the norm. But what about your tires? They get old like anything else but for some reason, so many people think that "they're 15 years old but they are 15 years old but they only have 5,000 miles , Their fine"

So not tdrue. Tire tread delaminate with age and tread separation is a real thing. They can take out the car or even take you out. With the spring season right around the corner a lot of Corvettes will hit the road with substandard tires. Replace at five years!!

Five years is on the extreme minimal end of the tire lifeconversation. Personally, I prefer to think more in the 6-7 year time span for newer generation Corvettes. For those with classic (C1 & C2) Corvettes which are trailered or driven no more than 35 mph to local shows, you are probably okay with your originals but watch for dry rot (checking) and keep a close eye on tire pressure.

This article was taken from Cascade Corvette Newsletter. Thank you Jim Garboden.



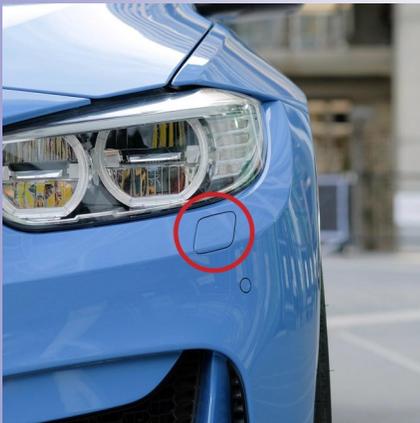
Corvette Colors For 2026

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Arctic White | Dark Satin Steel |
| Black | Hysteria Purple |
| Torch Red | Red Mist Metallic Tintcoat |
| Blade Silver Matte | Riptide Blue Metallic |
| Blade Silver Metallic | Roswell Green Metallic |
| Competition Yellow Tintcoat Metallic | Sebring Orange Tintcoat |

The Twelve Best Used Cars to Buy

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Honda Accord | 7. Ford Fusion |
| 2. Subaru Outback | 8. Honda Fit |
| 3. Honda Civic | 9. Dodge Charger |
| 4. Toyota Camry | 10. Mini Cooper |
| 5. Chevrolet Impala | 11. Volkswagen Passat |
| 6. Honda Ridgeline | 12. Jeep Wrangler |

From Family Handyman



What is The Small Panel On Your Car's Front Bumper Is For?

Ever notice a little square panel on the front of your car and wonder what it's there for? If you've never had a car towed, there's a chance that the square plastic cover on your [front bumper](#) has never been removed. That's because the plastic panel is hiding what's known as a tow eye. Without it, getting your car towed would be much riskier and less safe. Just pop off that little plastic cover and you'll find a small grooved slot. By screwing a tow hook into that slot, you're giving yourself a rock-solid point from which you can pull and tow the car.