



High Desert Corvette Club

Newsletter May 2025

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President's Ponderings

I wanted to share a few updates—both personal and club-related—as we shift into gear for the spring and summer season. Rebecca and I have kicked off a full home remodel and addition, and in the spirit of adventure (or insanity), we've moved into our 37-foot travel trailer for the next several months. We're hoping to be back in the house by October, but as anyone who's lived through construction knows... we'll see how that goes!

On the family front, we've got a big milestone coming up—our son Christopher has decided to make a major life move. He'll be heading to Australia on May 9th to join his fiancée, Macy, who's already living there. While we'll definitely miss having him close to home, we're incredibly proud of him and excited to see what this next chapter brings for the two of them.

ho's lived through construction knows... we'll see how that goes!

In the midst of all the chaos, I figured I'd take Rose—my Corvette—out for a much-needed spin. Unfortunately, she had other ideas. I found a puddle under her front end and discovered the shock had completely failed. With the electromagnetic ride control, that meant the suspension locked up tight instead of bouncing around. Thankfully, I was able to swap the part out myself and get her back on the road where she belongs.

As for the weather? Well, welcome to May in Central Oregon—where mornings can start in the twenties, afternoons hit the seventies, and you never know if you'll get sunshine, rain, or a surprise snow flurry. Keep the gear bag stocked and your ride ready—we're officially in the "May-be" season!

Don't forget to sign up for the Lithia Car Show in June—it's always a club favorite, helps our sponsor and a great time to connect. The board has decided that member dues will remain unchanged. Club dues of \$60 per household are due by June 15th

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events and out on the road!

Nathon Marker

HDCC President





May Birthdays

5/1 Christine Welsch
5/2 Scott Kendall
5/4 Eric McConnell
5/4 Mary Zumwalt
5/5 Jeannine Crowther
5/18 Lynda Derr
5/20 Tom Gray

May Anniversaries

3/3 Brad & Barbie Crement
5/5 Phil & Lynda Derr
5/18 Scott & Leslie Cheney
5/20 Frank & Sue Gibson
5/23 Terry & Patti Bagwell
5/26 Pete & Susan Bezek
5/30 Ken & Lee Ann Kaster

HDCC Events

May 16 HDCC Trip to Lincoln City
May 17 HDCC Highway Clean up
May 23-25 Big Sky Corvette Meet Great Falls MT
June 20 HDCC Retreat Jacksonville OR.
June 28 Lithia Chev Dealership Car Show
July 4th Redmond 4th of July Parade
July 17-19 Vette Fest Boise ID
July 18-19 SOCA Car Show Grants Pass
Aug 9 Corvettes on the Bay North Bend
Sept 13 Glory Daze Car Show Sisters, OR
Sept 9 Pro Drive PRI in Portland

Casey Gibbs won the
50/50 jackpot drawing
For \$60.00 He turned his winnings over
to his financial advisor, aka
Mrs. Gibbs!!!!!!!!!!

The Latest Service Information on the Corvette C8 DCT

Just talked with Ben at Bend Chevy and the latest word on the C8 DCT is that the transmission fluid needs to be change at 3 years or 29,000 miles. If you have recently had the canister filter replaced you may not need a new one. Ask Ben for details on that issue. There has been no directive regarding the internal filter inside the transmission case. I don't think this is the end of the story, stay tuned. Dig deep for dough, it is not cheap!!!!!!!!!!





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It's Driving Time Again Good Time To Review Caravan Protocols.

Driving in a group caravan gives out members the opportunity to not only have fun showing off our Corvettes, but also shows the public our commitment to exhibit safe and sane driving behavior. It is of utmost importance to comply with the laws of the road., the speed limits, and display courtesy to other people using the road.

Traveling in a caravan, or convoy, is often more fun than getting to destination as a single car. There are many aspects to be thought through in advance and communication before and during the drive are essential for success. Ideally, each car should have a way to communicate with other drivers, either with a two-way radio or cell phones to alert the leader of any problems. The radio channel will be decided on before starting the day's driving.

The caravan is comprised of three parts, the leader the members and the sweeper. Each has specific duties and responsibilities.

1. Leader Prior to the beginning of the drive, a leader should be designated. That person becomes responsible for the caravan. He/She will decide speed, movements, stops etc. The leader will inform drivers about the final destination, rest stops, food stops sightseeing, and other incidentals of the trip. If the caravan is separated, the leader should pull over at the first available safe spot to allow others to catch up. The leader is not responsible for frivers actions, so be courteous and respectful.

2. Drivers: The drivers should arrive at the designated meeting place in enough time to be ready to leave at the designated time. The cars should be fueled up and in good operating condition. All Drivers should know who the leader is and direct any questions to that person. Do not pass the leader. Drive with driving lights ON. Signal all turns well in advance. Maintain a safe distance from the car in front of you. Do not let the car in front of you get out of sight. Do not pass. So not overtake other drivers unless there is an emergency, or the driver waives you to pass. **Do not allow big gaps in the caravan.** Maintain your position in the caravan. If a stop is necessary, radio the leader and/or turn on your 4-way flasher to signal your intension. Pull completely off the road. The car behind you and the sweeper, should pull off to assist in case of an emergency. Allow other traffic to merge, when necessary driers should stay in the right lane unless repairing for a left turn.

3, Sweeper: The sweeper should be an experienced caravan driver. With the use of a radio or cell phone, the sweeper keeps in contact with the lead car. The sweeper's main objective is to ensure no one gets left behind. It is his/her job to watch for driers who have mechanical problems, who become behind because of traffic signals, or who pull out of the caravan. In heavy traffic, the sweeper can change lanes first, controlling traffic to allow cars in front or move into the lane.

The above guideline are a compilation of numerous suggestions for caravanning by car clubs with many years of fun on the road. Driving in a caravan is an exciting experience. Remember that safety comes first with having fun a close second. Save the Wave

On the lighter side.

Corvette season is just around the corner.....



Life is better when you find a good mechanic



We didn't call it DIY. It was just assumed that we'd do it ourselves.



@justcoololdcars

I BET HE WISHES HE HAD A HAT





2026 Corvette: Will GM Deliver A New Small Block Engine To Replace The LT2?

For decades, the debut of a new [Corvette](#) generation has coincided with the introduction of a new Small Block V8 engine. This tradition has held strong through the Vette's fifth, sixth, and seventh generations with the launch of the Gen III, IV, and V Small Blocks, respectively. Following an introduction via the Corvette, these V8 powerplants would later be adapted for use in GM's full-size trucks and SUVs. All of which begs the question – will the forthcoming [2026 Corvette](#) deliver a new Small Block to replace the current [LT2](#)?

The [C8 Corvette](#), [launched for the 2020 model year](#), broke from this tradition, cradling the naturally aspirated 6.2L V8 LT2, a performance-focused evolution of the Gen V Small Block, rather than a new-generation V8. The deviation raises questions about what comes next, especially as GM prepares to equip the upcoming [2027 Chevy Silverado](#) and [2027 GMC Sierra](#) with the sixth-generation Small Block, as *GM Authority* [covered previously](#).

Given the timeline, the 2026 [Corvette Stingray](#) could logically serve as the debut platform for the Gen VI, just as other Corvette models have done in the past. If such an engine were to materialize for 2026, it would likely replace the LT2 in both the C8 Stingray and the [E-Ray](#) hybrid, as both use the same powerplant architecture.

That said, there are several reasons to temper expectations. At this stage, *GM Authority* sources have not confirmed any such engine change for the 2026 model year. Moreover, no prototype test vehicles have been observed evaluating a next-gen powertrain, which would typically precede a major change like this. Not only that, but the LT2 remains highly competitive, generating 490 horsepower and 465 pound-feet of torque in its base form, which is more than sufficient for the segment. Furthermore, with federal emissions regulations facing a significant [rollback under the Trump administration](#), the usual regulatory pressures that might prompt a redesign are no quite as urgent. As of now, there's no concrete indication that the 2026 Corvette will indeed lead the rollout of the sixth-generation Small Block.



From GM Authority



National Corvette Day June 30

National Corvette Day, and the perfect opportunity to pay homage to the quintessential American sports car that owes its name to a small, fast World War II era warship. Designed in America. Built in America. Full of American ingenuity strengthened by American steel, grit and resolve. The Corvette is more than just a fast car. The Corvette is an aspiration and a symbol of power, freedom, and ambition. It has long symbolized the achievement of the American Dream. It is a monument to American ingenuity and to the promise of the American worker. And it is a reminder that when we come together, Americans can build great things recognized the world over.

The Corvette is also a cultural icon. Various T.V. shows featured the Corvette, such as "Route 66" and "Beverly Hills 90210." Movies cast the Corvette as well, including films like "Corvette Summer," "Cleopatra Jones," "Animal House," "Terms of Endearment," "Con Air," "Star Trek," and "Cannonball Run." Famous drivers include George Clooney, Michael Jordan, Jon Bon Jovi, Jay Leno, and Matthew McConaughey. And the car has been sung about or has influenced the music of country, pop, and hip-hop artists, alike.

Even the earliest American astronauts drove Corvettes — gifted the race cars by Chevrolet. And what could be more American than being an astronaut and driving a Corvette? The photograph of the Apollo astronauts standing next to their Corvettes is an iconic image from an era of unprecedented American achievement. The C8 2020, one of Corvette's models, recently debuted at the John F. Kennedy Space Center, two great symbols of American innovation and technology.

National Corvette Day was formally established by a United States House of Representatives resolution in 2008. This resolution designated June 30th, the date the first Corvette came off the assembly line in 1953, as National Corvette Day. While the House resolution formally established the holiday, the idea to celebrate the Corvette's anniversary likely originated within the Corvette community and car enthusiasts.

June 30, 1953 Was the day the first Corvette rolled off the assembly line.



Corvette Barn Find

When Kim Walker towed two old CIs to the 2017 Corvettes at Carlisle show to sell, he had no idea that they would be one of the highlights of the four-day event. With a multi-million dollar display of rare 1967 L88 Corvettes in Building T, he was pleasantly surprised to find these two old cars giving the mega-bucks examples a run for their money in popularity with the fans attending the show. When we set eyes on these two cars, we figured there was a story that needed to be shared behind this much patina, so we gave Walker a call.

We knew from some of the literature that was with the cars that they were both from Pennsylvania. Walker told us that they had been sitting just outside of Muncy, Pennsylvania, on the owner's property for many years, and he personally knew about them for about 15 years. Walker explains, "Every Corvette guy in the county knew about these cars and the owner had been approached several times." After many purchase attempts over the years, the transaction was eventually consummated with the aid of a third party, and was actually part of a larger three-car deal that also involved an equally sad '60 Corvette, also owned by the same individual.

We started off by asking him about the '56. He told us that was purchased in 1957 by the original owner, and was used as daily transportation until 1972. It still wears the original Venetian Red with Polo White exterior paint and beige interior. It is equipped with a three-speed manual and a 265-cubic-inch engine. Walker doesn't know which of the three engine options lay under the hood because he didn't want to open it, which meant removing all the vegetation growing on it. That was part of the appeal when it was displayed. His wife watered the car every day before the show so that none of it died off. The front of the car has a modified opening, which he told us, was done by the owner who liked to dabble with mild customizing. It was parked at some point in 1972, next to his garage where it slowly sank into the ground until early August 2017.

The story on the '54 is that it was acquired in 1964 and was parked the following year. It originally rolled off the St. Louis assembly line sporting a Polo White exterior and Sportsman Red interior, along with a 235-cubic-inch inline-six mated to a two-speed Powerglide transmission. The odometer shows just over 68,000 miles. Walker noted that the owner pulled the engine and transmission out for a full rebuild in 1965. The body was also completely disassembled at that time, and some minor bodywork performed on it. The guy lost interest in the project and it just sat inside the garage until 2013, when it was moved outside and parked in a carport. When Walker acquired it, it was completely apart. He didn't want to sell it in an "as is" condition; so many hours were spent carefully putting it back together so as not to disrupt the patina on the car.

Two eager individuals purchased both cars. The '56 was sold early on Thursday, the first day of the show, and we were told it fetched a cool \$10,000. The '54 was sold on Saturday, with a selling price in the mid-\$20s. While the future of the '56 is unclear, it may end up as a flowerpot a bit longer. Plans are for it to be on display during the 2017 Fall Carlisle show, while the '54 will undergo a full restoration. Vette



Looks like a
Couple of Bill Scherrer
projects. Get ready
Debbie!!!!!!





Round versus Angular Tail Lights??????????

They say that the eyes are the windows to the soul, and when it comes to cars, lighting design can play a huge role in defining a vehicle's overall character. That includes the tail lights on the [Chevy Corvette](#), which has long been closely tied to the nameplate's identity. For decades, Corvettes were recognized by their signature round taillights, a design element dating back to the very first model. This tradition carried through six generations until the [C7](#) broke the mold with sharper, more angular tail lights. Now, the [C8](#) continues the C7's angular approach with horizontally oriented, multi-element lights that lean into the car's exotic, [mid-engine](#) posture. But what if the C8 returned to the rounded setup instead? What's your preference or do you care?



Two New Colors For 2026



Roswell Green Metallic

These two will replace Rapid Blue and Sea Wolf Gray Tricoat



Blade Silver Metallic

Automobile Anomalies





Here's How Much Money GM CEO Mary Barra Made In 2024

GM CEO [Mary Barra](#) earned 5.9 percent more in 2024 than she did in 2023, according to the latest data, though her base salary remains the same as it was in 2022. Mary Barra's windfall comes from add-ons to her salary, including stock awards and incentive pay, *Automotive News* [reports](#), which, all told, amounted to roughly 13 times her regular salary in 2024.

With everything added together, Mary Barra took home a whopping \$29.5 million in pay for 2024. The largest item, stock awards, came to \$19.5 million, a 33-percent surge from her 2023 haul of stocks. She got \$6.7 million in direct incentive pay, a 27-percent rise from the previous year, though she got no stock options at all compared to \$4.9 million in each of 2022 and 2023. These sums were stacked on her base \$2.1 million salary.



As a comparison , Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angels Dodgers makes 70 million per year as a designated hitter which means he bats 4-5 times per game and otherwise sits in the dugout . System seems unbalanced but as always, "it is what it is".

HDCC Club Dues

The HDCC executive board has decided the 2025 club dues will remain the same at \$60.00 per household. Dues are payable by June 15, 2025



Available at Chevrolet of Bend



2005 Corvette Convertible
High wear leather seat Trim
Automatic
Magnetic Red
7,135 miles
No Price listed

2016
Z06 Corvette Coupe
Velocity Yellow, Black Interior
37932 Miles
\$64,990.00



2015 Corvette Coupe
Shark Gray Metallic
Kalahari Interior
45,011 miles
\$41,990.00