



High Desert Corvette Club

Newsletter October 2026

Officers and Volunteers

President—Nathon Marker

Vice Pres.— Don Ginter

Secretary— Dee Ginter

Treasurer— Mike Zumwalt

Sgt At Arms— Jere Smith

Activities— Sande Burgess

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

September was **jam-packed** for High Desert Corvettes! We did our best to squeeze in as many events, drives, and opportunities to get the cars out as we could before the Central Oregon weather decides it's time to put them away for the season.

Thank you to everyone who participated throughout the month. Whether you joined us for one event or seemed to be at everything, your participation is what makes these events worthwhile and keeps the club active and fun.

We also had a great turnout for our September Social BBQ. I know many of you don't trust everything you read on the internet, and apparently you shouldn't. After all, according to Zillow, our three-bedroom home has **zero bathrooms**. The house also looks quite a bit different today than it does online, so I'm sure a few of you were **shocked, to say the least**, when you pulled up!

Despite the questionable information on the internet, you still took your chances, managed to find us, and showed up. Thank you to everyone who came out, brought food, brought your Vettes, and helped make it such a fun evening. Rebecca and I really enjoyed having everyone over!

As we head into October, things are starting to slow down a bit. **There will be NO October business meeting**. Some of our members will be off cruising, while Rebecca and I will be **Down Under** enjoying Australia.

Our calendar may be getting shorter, but we aren't finished with 2026 just yet. We still have the **Veterans Day Parade** coming up, followed by our **Christmas Party** to wrap up another great year with High Desert Corvettes.

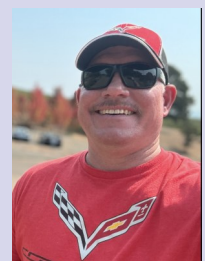
Looking ahead to next year, it is also time to start thinking about the future of our E-Board. Several of us have served on the board for many years, and our current terms will be coming to an end before we know it. We would really like to see some new members step up, get involved, and help carry the club forward.

The club needs members willing to bring fresh ideas, new energy, and take a turn helping lead the way. You don't have to know everything, and you certainly won't be doing it alone. If you have ever thought about serving on the E-Board—or are simply curious about what is involved—please reach out to me. You can also visit the club website and review the officer duties to learn more about the different positions.

High Desert Corvettes continues to be successful because of the people who participate, volunteer, and get involved. Thank you again for a jam-packed September, and let's enjoy the remaining events of 2026 and finish the year strong!

Nathon Marker

HDCC President





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October Birthdays

2 Reg Crossan
4 Phil Derr
6 Daren Lucas
7 Nancy Kreamer
10 Debby Kunzman
18 Barry Larson
29 Ingrid Bongers

Anniversaries

18 Nathan & Rebecca Marker

HDCC Events

Oct. 3 Highway Clean up
PIC= Eric & Miriam Lea
Oct 28 Okawa Restaurant Social Night
PIC Bill and Debbie Scherrer
Nov 11 Veteran's Day Parade
PIC Don Ginter
Dec 16 HDCC Christmas Party
PIC Nate Marker

(PIC = Person In Charge)

Newsletter ??

Microsoft has announced it will no longer support the Publisher Program which have used over the last 10 years or so to do the monthly newsletter.

I am currently looking for another program to continue with the newsletter.

Most of the pertinent information, in the newsletter, schedule of events, meeting minutes, pictures of past events can be viewed on the website. (Thanks Walt Santos for an up to date website)

Birthdays and Anniversaries can be seen on the club roster which is sent out to all



Mary Zumwalt won the 50/50 drawing in the amount of \$105.00
See Mary for low interest loans!!

Memories



On the lighter side.



Sure looks nothing like my grandma yikes !!!!!

Annie Sheaffer Retires After 34 Years

(we accidently/intentionally crashed her retirement party)



A Michigan State Rep Files Bill to Create a Special License Plate for Corvette's 75th Anniversary

The Corvette is closing in on a major milestone, and Michigan lawmakers want to give owners of America's sports car a special way to join the celebration. State Rep. Donni Steele recently introduced legislation that would create a limited-edition Michigan license plate commemorating the [75th anniversary](#) of the Chevrolet Corvette that will arrive with the 2028 model year.

It's a fitting tribute for a car with strong ties to the state. Although the Corvette has been built at General Motors' Bowling Green, Kentucky, assembly plant for decades, its story began in Michigan.

Although Rep. Steele does not own a Corvette she got a taste of the car she hopes to honor when General Motors visited recently and she had the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a red Corvette.



When Are You Too Old to Drive?

There is no legal age to stop driving, but it is vital to be aware of pitfalls, so you can keep yourself and others safe on the road. With Baby Boomers now in their 70s and 80s, there are more elderly drivers on the road now than ever before. And while statistically speaking, drivers over the age of 65 are [far less likely](#) to get into an accident than drivers under the age of 20, [data is showing](#) an increase in crash rates for adults over 70.

Driving Risks as You Age

As we age, both our physical and cognitive health wain, and that negatively affects driving safety. Hearing and vision are two big issues. Beyond obvious problems like cataracts and macular degeneration, older eyes have decreased contrast sensitivity, which makes it harder for them to adapt to tricky driving conditions, like glare from headlights and rain. Our peripheral vision also gets worse, which makes us less likely to see cars in the lane next to us.

Our reaction times also decrease with age, which means we may not respond as quickly to hazards such as a child dashing out into the road or another vehicle suddenly cutting lanes, says Barkan. On the cognitive side, even mild impairment can interfere with multitasking, spatial acuity and quick decision-making, all essential to navigate through busy intersections or unmapped roads.

For many drivers, it is possible to continue to drive safely with age. The keys to doing so include:

- Getting routine checkups for vision and hearing, and wearing corrective lenses or hearing aids if they've been recommended by a doctor.
- Regularly consulting with a doctor about whether your medications can cause drowsiness or confusion.
- Knowing your limitations and avoiding situations that make you uneasy, such as driving at night or during rush hour.
- Limiting driving to times when there are favorable conditions and staying on familiar routes.
- Following common safety practices, like reducing distractions.
- Installing adaptive equipment, such as wider mirrors and pedal extenders.

Taking a senior driving course, such as the AARP Smart Driver program, which provides refreshers on traffic laws and vehicle technologies, plus can qualify you for insurance discounts.

Generally getting a moving violation as a senior is not a very rewarding experience. The cops will tell you that you should not be driving, you will get a severe fine, your insurance rates will double and if all else fails they will hang you by your thumbs in the town square just so others know you screwed up.

From Family Handyman



Is It Highway Hypnosis or Fatigue

Have ever driven into your drive way or other location and don't remember how you got there or the last mile or two. We all think "I guess it is ok since I don't remember running into anything or anybody. The definition of highway hypnosis is A semi-conscious state where you drive safely on autopilot but cannot recall the last few miles. The cause is generally considered to be road monotony, familiar routes, and a lack of visual stimulation and/or the predictability of the highway environment. Your procedural memories handles the vehicle but your conscious focus drifts

Fatigue or drowsy driving a severe lack of rest that reduces brain function and reaction speed is caused by long hours of driving, sleep deprivation or late night driving. Your body actively fights sleep leading to heavy eyelids and micro sleeps.

Key Differences : Highway hypnosis means you forget a stretch of road; fatigue means you feel physically exhausted and struggle to keep your eyes open. You can snap out of highway hypnosis by a change in scenery whereas fatigues means you need to pull over and rest.

Either one is not a good situation and it is always best to keep watching what is around you, frequently check your mirrors and look ahead two or three cars to anticipate what is coming at you



Ever Wonder What Those Long Spikes on Semi-Truck Wheels Are For?

Those long spikes on semi-truck wheels may look intimidating, but their real purpose is much simpler than most drivers assume. They don't look like standard lug nuts seen on a passenger vehicle, so what are they and what are they used for?

The long spikes usually seen on the wheels of a semi-truck are **decorative** covers designed to go over the existing [lug nuts](#). They aren't designed to interact with the axle, tire, or braking system, and they don't hold the wheel in place. They also don't only come in spike shapes. Manufacturers of these covers sell them in a variety of designs, like flat, bullet, rocket, or spear styles. So now you know!!

From Family Handyman



Is Running a Yellow Light Against the Law?

The [traffic light](#) shifts to yellow just as you approach the intersection. For a second, everything feels uncertain. Your foot hovers between the gas and the brake. The car behind you is close. You're not sure if stopping makes sense—or if continuing will get you in trouble. If you decide to stop everything on the seats slides to the floor(cell phone, groceries, take out food, small children, yes I know they are suppose to be in a car seat). To make it worse the car behind you honks and gives you the bird just to make you feel better. If you decide to go on through the yellow light you tend to hunker down in the seat hoping that no police are around only to look in the rearview mirror to see two cars following you through the light.

Yellow lights aren't as clear-cut as "green means go" and "[red means stop](#)." They signal that red is coming, but that doesn't automatically make it illegal to enter the intersection. **Most states drivers handbooks state that drivers should stop if they can safely do so, but if not, they can proceed with caution.**

When we first started coming to central Oregon in 1988, driving was a more pleasant experience . Of course Bend was less than 25,000 people but now since it has grown to over 100,000 driving has proven to be more of a challenge. It is a lot like driving in Seattle or any large city with the exception of New York City where you need to be mildly insane to take that on.

Just my view so take it for what is worth. JB

What is Top Tier Gasoline?

A performance standard for gasoline and diesel that contains a higher concentration of cleaning detergents than the minimum level required by the government. It stops carbon gunk from forming on engine parts like intake valves and fuel injectors.

The **TOP TIER™ rating** is established, overseen, and monitored by a consortium of the world's leading **automotive manufacturers (OEMs)**. It is not a government rating from agencies like the EPA, but rather an industry standard created by car companies who realized federal minimum detergent requirements were not enough to keep modern engines clean. [[1](#), [2](#)]

The program is formally managed and administered by the **Center for Quality Assurance (CQA)**

It is not clear if the fuel is monitored to ensure that the top tier requirements are maintained, but I guess one would have to expect that it is being closely watched.



High Chair Poker Run

The first ever High Chair Poker Run was a roaring success. A good drive, lots of laughs and a good time had by all. Charlie Thomson was the winner of the jackpot.





Social Night at the Markers

Great social night at the Maker's home. Great food, good friends and lots of laughs.

Thank you Nate and Rebecca for a great evening





President's Mystery Tour

Another President's Mystery Tour is in the books. The president and first lady did excellent work in putting together a great weekend of fun and adventure. This event takes days and weeks of planning and follow up. The PMT was well planned and was executed to perfection. Lots of great scenery, restaurants and of course memorable conversations and laughs along the way. Thank you Nate and Rebecca for a great time.





GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.