



# High Desert Corvette Club

Newsletter May 2026

## Officers and Volunteers

**President-Nathon Marker**

**Vice Pres.— Don Ginter**

**Secretary— Dee Ginter**

**Treasurer— Mike Zumwalt**

**Sgt At Arms— Bryce Woodall**

**Activities—Mike & Judy  
McClellan**

**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**

High Desert Corvettes Members.

As we head into the heart of the driving season, I want to keep this one simple and focused on what matters most right now—getting out and driving together.

We had 31 people show up at the Olive Garden for our first sunny social this year.

We need **more drive outs** on the calendar. These don't have to be all-day events—some of the best ones are just a couple of hours with a good route and great company. If you've got an idea, I need your help.

Please **email both Sande ([sandbur@me.com](mailto:sandbur@me.com)) and me ([ormarker@gmail.com](mailto:ormarker@gmail.com))** with dates you're thinking and we'll help get it on the schedule

We're also pushing strong participation for a couple of key June events:

### **Corvettes on the High Desert | June 26–27**

This is our big show and a major part of what we do as a club. If you haven't signed up yet, now's the time. Let's make sure we show up strong.

### **Club Retreat – Jacksonville | June 19–21**

This will be a great weekend to get away, spend time together, and enjoy some incredible driving. If you're on the fence—go.

Bottom line—more participation, more driving, more involvement. That's what makes this club what it is.

I am all in on the PMT tour. I have been to Middle, Nowhere a few times now and it will be great. More info coming. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

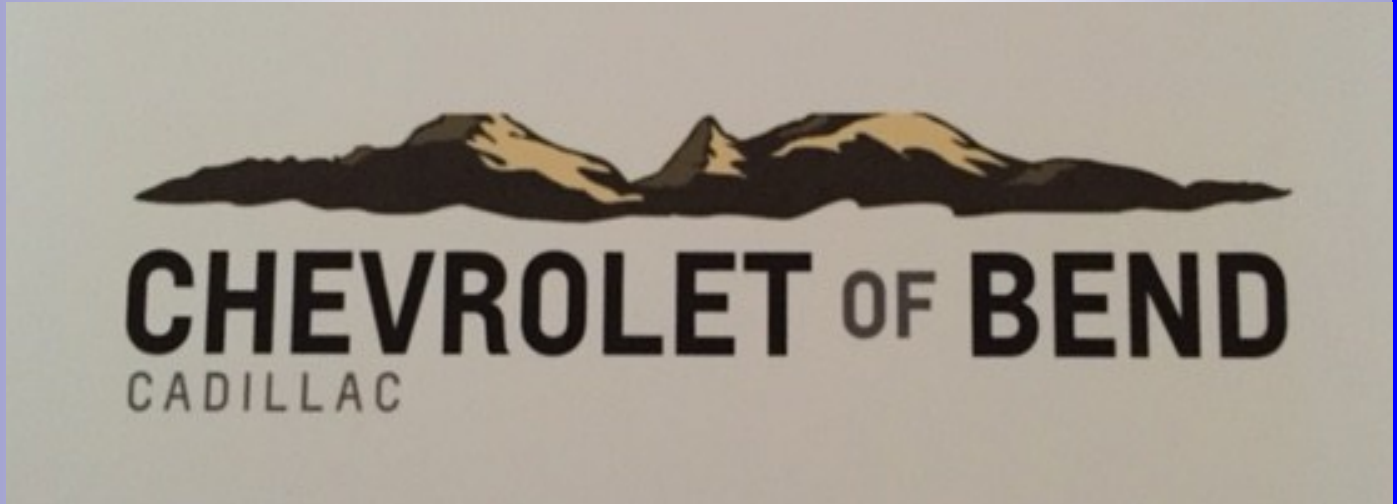
Nathon Marker

HDCC President





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## May Birthdays

- 4 Mary Zumwalt
- 12 Mira Heimgartner
- 18 Lynda Derr
- 20 Tom Gray

## May Anniversaries

- 3 Brad & Barbie Crement
- 5 Phil & Lynda Derr
- 20 Frank & Sue Gibson
- 23 Terry & Patti Bagwell
- 26 Pete & Susan Bezek
- 30 Ken & LeaAnn Gaster

## HDCC Events

- May 12 Meet & Greet Cascade Corvette Club, Takodas 6:00 PM Sisters 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 11-13 President's Mystery Tour
- Sept 12 Glory Daze Car Show Sisters
- Sept 10-12 Corvettes on the Columbia
- Sept 19 First Ever High Chair Poker Run

## Highway Clean-up Dates

- June 6
- Sept 12



**Walt Santos won the**

**50/50 Jackpot Drawing**

**In the amount of \$66.00**

## On the lighter side.



If pills are too toxic to flush down the toilet, Ever ask, why is it safe to swallow them?

**Welcome to adulthood, where you get irritated when they rearrange the grocery store**



Vice President Don Ginter presented HDCC president Nate Marker with a brick with Nate's name, HDCC and that he was president. A like brick will be on the wall at the Corvette museum in Bowling Green, WI

President Nate Marker presented the officers and volunteers with gifts thanking them for their work throughout the year.





## Another Successful Highway Clean-up



Thanks to all who participated

Harry and Ingrid Bongers  
Dave Roth & Janet Kreamer  
Eric and Miriam Lea  
Mike & Mary Zumwalt  
Mike & Judy McClean  
Bryce Woodall  
John Burgess

Special thanks to Eric & Miriam Lea for gathering the equipment and providing the breakfast of champions





## Battery Life

The average car battery lasts between three and five years with many needing replacement at the three-to-four-year mark. Lifespan of the battery is heavily influenced by climate (heat increases degradation) and driving habits (short trips prevent full recharging) and battery type (AGM last 4-7 years; Lithium-ion up to 10 years) Cars left unused for extended periods experience self-discharge, reducing overall capacity. Corrosion on battery terminals can reduce life. Cleaning battery terminals every six months can reduce this factor.

### Battery Lifespans

Lead-Acid (standard) 3 to 5 years

AGM (Absorbent Glass Mat) 4 – 6 Years

EFB (Enhanced Flooded Battery) 4 – 6 Years

Hybrid/EV Battery 8 – 15 years sometimes measured in 150K to 250K miles.

How to check condition of batter? Use a multimeter set to 20V DC to check across terminals. A healthy battery reads 12.6 volts at rest.

Battery life is something we tend to ignore especially with Corvettes in central Oregon as the cars have months that they are not used. Even with battery tenders the time factor still exists in determining battery health. Sometimes there are not warning signs of impending battery failure such as slow cranking or diming lights etc.. Often they just quit. Always a good idea to check your battery before starting out on a road trip especially if it is approaching the five year mark.

## The Next Moon Rover





## Aging - A few thoughts...

"Middle age is when you're sitting at home on a Saturday night and the telephone rings and you hope it isn't for you." - Ogden Nash

"I'm so old that my blood type is discontinued." - Bill Dane

"At my age, flowers scare me." - George Burns

"I don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet." - Rita Rudner

"The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down." - T.S. Elliot

"At fifty, everyone has the face he deserves." - George Orwell

"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." - Ann Landers

"When I was young, I was called a rugged individualist. When I was in my fifties, I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and saying the same things I did then, and I'm labeled senile." - George Burns

"As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two." - Sir Norman Wisdom

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." - Andy Rooney

"Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest." - Larry Lorenzon

"The older I get, the better I used to be." - Lee Trevino

"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." - Robert Orben

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself." - Tom Wilson.



## Dry-Sump Oiling Systems

Engines with dry-sump oiling systems have been either optional or standard on Corvettes since 2006.

When a dry-sump engine is running, only a small amount of oil is in its oil pan, or “sump”, with a majority of the oil supply in a tank separate from the engine. One or more “scavenge” pumps suck oil from the sump and pump it to the oil tank. A “pressure pump” draws oil from the tank and pumps it through the filter and oil cooler to engine parts which are pressure lubricated.

Key advantages of dry-sump oiling are: 1) more consistent oil pressure when the engine is at high rpm and the car is maneuvering with high lateral acceleration and 2) far less oil aeration or “windage” caused by the spinning crankshaft and violent air movement between the cylinder block’s “bays” rapidly reciprocating piston movement.

### Important– Checking the oil

Dry sump engines require a special oil level checking procedure because when the engine is not running, oil in the supply tank drains back into the oil pan. When that happens, the indicated oil level will be inaccurate. How quickly drain back occurs depends on whether the engine is in a C6/C7 or a C8. Rather than somewhere on the engine block, the dipstick for a dry-sump engine is in the oil tank, adjacent to the oil fill cap.

Before oil level checking, oil temperature needs to be about 175°F. The best bet is to drive the car until the oil temperature reaches that range. The oil may reach that temperature with the engine just idling, but it takes longer.

With 2020 and up Corvettes, the oil check procedure is even more unusual because it’s done with the engine running at idle. The oil temperature needs to be about 175°F. Park on level ground. Leave the engine running. Pull the dipstick, wipe it with a clean rag, re-insert the stick, then pull it a second time. The very bottom of the crosshatched section is the one-quart low mark. Add a quart of oil when the oil level is at or below that. (Refer to owners manual for additional instructions) [Corvette Magazine](#)



## Odds and Ends

**Here's When C9 Corvette Production Will Start:** According to sources familiar with the matter, the C9 [Corvette](#) is currently scheduled to enter production during the 2029 calendar year. This timing will align with a planned public debut late in the 2028 calendar year, as well as an official launch for the 2030 model year. To note, this marks a shift from earlier reporting that pointed to a [launch for the 2029 model year](#).

**Why Is Costco Gas So Cheap?** The real reason Costco gas is so cheap is because of its membership business model. To shop at Costco and fill up a tank at the mass retailer, one has to be a paid member. A Costco membership costs anywhere between \$65 and \$130 per year, depending on the type of membership you get. It is likely that the money that Costco gets from this membership fee allows them to lower the prices more than their competitors while also still making a profit. That said, Costco doesn't necessarily have the biggest profit margin when it comes to gas. Costco does not pursue the same profit margin on its gasoline sales as other gas stations do, There may be times when Costco is selling gas at or below cost, just so that it can bring customers into its store. Although Costco gas is often cheaper than its competitors, don't let that fool you into thinking it's not quality fuel.

**GM And Other Automakers Suggest Replacing Gas Tax With Vehicle Fee In The U.S.** As reported by [Reuters](#), the proposal was put forward by the Alliance for Automotive Innovation this week, reflecting growing concerns that the current system is no longer sustainable as vehicle propulsion technology continues to evolve. At present, the federal gas tax is set at 18.4 cents per gallon, and has remained unchanged since 1993. Over time, however, inflation has chipped away at the value of the tax by more than 60 percent, while improvements in fuel efficiency and the proliferation of electric vehicles has further reduced tax revenue. As a result, the highway trust fund has faced persistent shortfalls, requiring more than \$275 billion in transfers from the general fund since 2008 to maintain U.S. roads and infrastructure. Under the proposed system, the fee would be structured similarly to a registration charge and scaled based on vehicle weight. If this happens, watch to see if the federal gas tax of 18 cents goes away. I think not!!!!!!

**The U.S. EPA has moved to eliminate regulatory credits for automakers that install automatic engine start-stop features as of February 2026.** While not an outright ban on the technology, this removes the mandate. Automakers will no longer receive credit toward federal fuel economy and emissions standards for implementing start-stop systems. Manufacturers can still include the technology if they choose, but they are **no longer incentivized** to do so. While an annoying feature it allegedly saves fuel. Nothing was said about wear and tear on batteries and starters by the constant starting of the engines.



2027 YM CORVETTE	
*STARTING PRICES W/ DFC*	
MODEL	PRICE
STINGRAY CPE 1LT	\$73,495
STINGRAY CONVVT 1LT	\$80,495
STINGRAY CPE 2LT	\$80,595
STINGRAY CPE 3LT	\$85,245
STINGRAY CONVVT 2LT	\$87,595
GS CPE 1LT	\$88,495
STINGRAY CONVVT 3LT	\$92,245
GS CONVVT 1LT	\$95,495
GS CPE 2LT	\$95,595
GS CPE 3LT	\$100,245
GS CONVVT 2LT	\$102,595
GS CONVVT 3LT	\$107,245
GSX CPE 1LT	\$112,195
GSX CPE 2LT	\$117,695
GSX CONVVT 1LT	\$119,195
Z06 CPE 1LZ	\$121,395
GSX CPE 3LT	\$122,845
GSX CONVVT 2LT	\$124,695
Z06 CONVVT 1LZ	\$127,395
GSX CONVVT 3LT	\$129,845
Z06 CPE 2LZ	\$130,295
Z06 CPE 3LZ	\$134,945
Z06 CONVVT 2LZ	\$137,295
Z06 CONVVT 3LZ	\$141,945
ZR1 CPE 1LZ	\$197,195
ZR1 CONVVT 1LZ	\$207,195
ZR1 CPE 3LZ	\$208,195
ZR1 CONVVT 3LZ	\$218,195
ZR1X CPE 1LZ	\$227,395
ZR1X CONVVT 1LZ	\$237,395
ZR1X CPE 3LZ	\$238,395
ZR1X CONVVT 3LZ	\$248,395

Corvette model year 2027 prices.

These prices are **without** options.

Does not include dealer mark up on some models which can be as much as \$100,000.00.

Remember it is only money and you only live once (as far as I know) so why not go for it!!!!!!

Thanks Walt Santos for sending this to me.



2026 Corvette Z06 2LZ

Arctic White Black Interior

\$137,130.00



2026 Corvette Stingray 2LT

Blade Silver Black Interior

\$91,810.00



2014 Corvette Stingray

Arctic White Red Interior

33,462 Mile

\$45,995.00