

THE VETTE GAZETTE

Color Country Corvette Club

SPONSORED BY STEPHEN WADE CHEVROLET

ESTABLISHED 2006

JANUARY 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR





JANUARY EVENTS

VETTES & CAFFEINE - JAN 16, 2020

Happy New Years

MESQUITE MOTOR MANIA CAR SHOW - JAN 17-19 LAPS FOR CHARITY TIME! SUNDAY, JAN 26

SPEED COSTS MONEY! HOW FAST DO YOU WANT TO GO?

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

COLOR COUNTRY CORVETTE CLUB WILL MEET ON THE 2nd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE

BLACK BEAR DINER

965 N HOODOO WAY WASHINGTON (Just off I-15 @exit 13)

DINNER & SOCIAL - 5:30 - 7:00 PM MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD THE 2nd MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

JANUARY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

MONDAY - JANUARY 13 - 12:00 pm

IN THE HOME OF DOUG ROSA

RSVP - onlnvet@yahoo.com

ALL ARE WELCOME!

1959 TRIVIA

1959 was the only year that turquoise soft tops were available.

Sun visors (called "sunshades") became a Corvette option in 1959.

COLOR COUNTRY CORVETTE CLUB 2019 OFFICERS

PETER SPEVAK - VICE PRESIDENT-ACTIVITIES peteraspevakccccvp@gmail.com

DAVE VAN OTTEN - SECRETARY dvanotten@yahoo.com

DOUG ROSA - TREASURER - NCCC REP WEBMASTER onlnvet@yahoo.com

ANNE ROSA - SUNSHINE onlnvet@yahoo.com

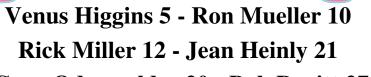
BECKY SUAZO beckysuazo@live.com

RUN INFORMATION

Members wanting to sponsor a run or an event please contact Peter Spevak peteraspevakccccvp@gmail.com for help organizing and/or distributing information to members.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO PLAN A RUN OR RUN SUGGESTIONS
REFER TO WEB SITE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS





Gary Odenwalder 20 - Bob Devitt 27





CAR OF THE MONTH



Color Country Corvette Club Car of the Month Gil & Deanna Sorensen December 2019







2011 Bullet Silver Coupe LS-3 450 HP

"We love our 2011 Bullet Silver Coupe with LS-3 450HP engine, auto transmission w/paddle shifters, two roofs (solid and sunroof), heads-up display and 3 track modes. It is such fun to drive. Surprisingly, it gets 28MPG in street mode. We had our 50th wedding anniversary in November 2017 for which our eldest son rented a Corvette in Las Vegas for Dad to try out. Gil was hooked on a Corvette. He looked for the right one from then until we bought this one in May 2018. We enjoy road trips with the Club, seeing a string of Corvettes headed up the road."



2020 RUN CALENDAR



Mesquite Mania Car Show Jan 17-19 - Need flyer to send out - Doug Rosa?

Laps for Charity LVMS - Sunday Jan 27 - Doug Rosa

Rattlin' D Playhouse/Dinner - Date? - Needs flyer to send out - Jim/Lynn Agar

Progressive Dinner – Saturday March 28 – Maybe yes...maybe no...will poll members at meeting

Laughlin/Oatman - April 7, 8 & 9 - Jim & Lynn Agar

Monument Valley & Surrounds - May 15, 16 & 17 - Derek & Shelby Hall

4th of July Parade & Breakfast – St George

Pioneer Days Parade - Washington/Hurricane? - Possibility?

Sugar's Diner Lunch/Overton Museum & Valley of Fire - May, June or October? - Ronnie

Pahrump Winery/Overnight - TBD - Doug & Ann Rosa

Mecum or Barret/Jackson Car Auction - Las Vegas - Peter & Trish Spevak

Pompei Exhibit - SLC - Styka - Sometime before May 2 - TBD

'Vettes & Caffeine - Ongoing 3rd Thursay morning each month - Doug Rosa

Ely - Railroad Museum/Great Basin/Lehman Caves - Jim & Lynn Agar - TBD

This is just a friendly reminder that YOU are the heart and soul of the CCCC. If any of you want to sponsor a run or if you want to discuss ideas about a potential run, give me a call. Runs can be simple (local breakfast, lunch or dinner "greet & eats"), complex (multi-day runs throughout the region) or "unknown" (e.g., mystery runs). They can feature the natural beauty of the area, tours of establishments, attending events and so forth. They could be a cool drink on your patio in the afternoon. You decide.

The logistics of putting on a run are relatively simple...have places to stop for "bio" breaks, places to eat that can handle the group and paved roads.

I believe all members enjoy each others' company, our cars and having a good time with each other. That is the heart and soul of the CCCC.

Peter S



DECEMBER 3 - CHRISTMAS







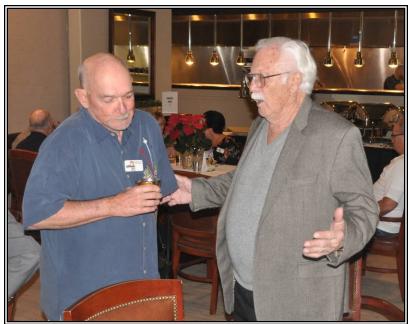
































TOYS FOR TOTS - DECEMBR 4









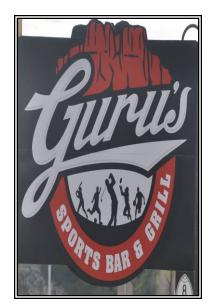




















VETTES & CAFFEINE

Okay your cars have been in the garage long enough.

Join other members for breakfast at Peggy Sues

Thursday - Jan 16, 2020 9am - 10am
Vettes & Caffeine
Breakfast
Peggy Sue's 50's Style Diner
380 N Sandhill Blvd, Mesquite, NV

Departure from Terribles / exit 3 at 9 AM

Give me a RSVP if you are coming so I can call ahead.

Doug Rosa onlnvet@yahoo.com / 435-272-3773

ColorCountryCorvetteClub St George Utah

The Color Country Corvette Club will be attending the Mesquite Motor Mania 2020 in January to promote our club in Mesquite and the surrounding area. We will be located at the JRW Rod & Customs booth. Any member wanting to display their car is welcome to do so for the day. We will have the club banner, handouts, and other information to show and handout to prospective members.

We would like some volunteers to spend a couple of hours manning our display throughout each day. Please RSVP

We would like to request club members living in the Mesquite area to help spread the word. If you have any questions or suggestions give me a call.

For those going down to the Car Show we will leave from Ext.3/Terrible's at 10 AM Utah time each day.

Doug Rosa 435-272-3773 / onlnvet@yahoo.com

"Mesquite Motor Mania 2020"

Classic Car Show Event in Mesquite, Nevada Just 80 miles North of Las Vegas

January 17, 18, 19, 2020

(Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend)

Open to All Years, Makes and Models of Classic Vehicles:

Cars, Trucks, Bikes & Special Interest Vehicles including:

* Vintage * Originals * Classics * Hot Rods * Customs *

* Street Rods * Competition * Special Interests *

red by: Mesquite Resort Association, CasaBlanca Resort, Oasis Resort,
Virgin River Resort, Eureka Resort Casino, Las Vegas Convention
and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Events, Mesquite Car Shows,
and Las Vegas Cruisin' Association, Inc.

Color Country Corvettes

Laps for Charity

Sunday, January 27, 2019 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM Las Vegas Motor Speedway



Join us Sunday, January 26, 2020 to run Laps for Charity benefiting the Las Vegas Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities. NASCAR fans and car enthusiasts will have the opportunity to drive their personal vehicles around the 1.5-mile superspeedway at speeds up to 75 miles per hour (behind a pace car), all in an effort to raise money for local children's charities. Experience the thrill of a lifetime by driving your car, truck, motorcycle or other street-legal vehicle on the same track as your favorite NASCAR drivers!

It's simple to take your Laps for Charity:

- Drivers must be 18 years of age and older
- All occupants of the car must be at least 6 years of age or older
- The vehicle must be street legal
- Drivers must have a valid license
- You MUST have seatbelts in your vehicle and wear them

We have a scheduled time in the morning of 10:15 AM to make our laps. Please go to the following link https://www.speedwaycharities.org/events/las-vegas/laps-for-charity/registration/ to register.

We will leave from Terrible's, exit 3, at 8 AM traveling to the Casa Blanca for breakfast.

After breakfast we will continue on to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway to do our Laps for Charity.

When we finish we may want to have a little Road Kill to eat??

RSVP - Doug Rosa

onlnvet@yahoo.com / 435-272-3773



LAUGHLIN NV - OATMAN, AZ JET BOAT RIDE - LAUGHLIN TO LONDON BRIDGE Country Corvettes BUDDY HOLLY TRIBUTE SHOW - WINTER DANCE PARTY PHOTO OP AT COOL SPRINGS AZ ON ROUTE 66



2 NIGHTS IN LAUGHLIN, NV - APRIL 7 - 8, 2020 - RETURN HOME APRIL 9 **BOOKING INFORMATION**



Riverside Resort / Reservations Phone number to call:

1-800-227-3849 option 1

Group Code: C/COLOR

\$49.00 per standard room (2 queen bed, mountain view); plus resort fee (\$10) and tax per night.



"Winter Dance Party" is the official live and authentic re-creation of Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper's Final tour and the only show endorsed by the Holly, Valens and Richardson estates. Each live concert performance includes over two hours of unbridled, high voltage entertainment featuring all the hit songs of the 50's era: "That'll be the Day", "Peggy Sue", "Oh Boy", "Rave On", "La Bamba", "Chantilly Lace" and many, many more.

BOOKING INFORMATION FOR BUDDY HOLLY

Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino ShowGate Ticketing Staff - (800) 227-3849

Make your reservations for Wed 04/08/20 8:00 PM show time

Group code - Color Country Corvettes reservations

Office hours are Wednesday thru Sunday,

from 12:30 PM until 7:30 PM

Ticket Prices are \$42.51 inc tax



JET BOAT RIDE - TO LONDON BRIDGE





Join us on a breathtaking, 58-mile jet boat tour from Laughlin to Lake Havasu City! Not only does this six-hour, round-trip excursion feature enchanting views of Topock Gorge, but it also includes a two-hour layover at the world-famous London Bridge. Get ready for an unforgettable day of sightseeing, relaxation and fun with our London Bridge jet boat tour!

Check-In 8:30AM to 9:15AM. Must be on dock by 9:30AM

- 2 Hour Boat Ride 2 Hour London Bridge Layover
- 2 Hour Boat Ride Arrives Laughlin 4 PM
- *All times are Nevada Time

BOOKING INFORMATION FOR LONDON JET BOAT TOURS



Don't be left standing on the dock!!!

https://laughlinboattours.com



Make your reservations for Wed 04/08/20 - PRICE: \$75.00 PP





PHOTO OP AT COOL SPRINGS AZ ON ROUTE 66

FREE

OATMAN AZ

FREE

BOOKING PROBLEMS OR MORE INFO CONTACT JIM AGAR 435-319-4588 jimagar14@gmail.com



Monument Valley, Slick Rock Country & Surrounding Vistas

Dates: May 15-17, 2020

Itinerary:



10:00am Depart - Exit 13 Maverik 11:00am Bio Break - Kanab, UT Noon Lunch - Page, AZ 1:30pm Depart - Page

3:30pm Arrive - Kayenta Monument Valley Inn,

Kayenta, AZ

6:00pm Group Dinner - TBA

Saturday, May 16

10:00am Depart - Hotel

Noon Group Lunch - Goulding Lodge @ Monument Valley

2:00pm Depart - Goulding Lodge 3:30pm Bio Break - Blanding, UT

5:30pm Arrive - Super 8 Hotel, Green River, UT

6:30pm Group Dinner - TBA

Sunday, May 17

9:30am Depart - Hotel

11:00am Bio Break - Salina, UT

12:00pm Group Lunch - Richfield, UT 1:30pm Depart - Richfield 4:00pm Arrive - St. George

Note: All times are Mountain Daylight Time

We have negotiated a group rates as follows:

- 1. Kayenta Monument Valley Inn, AZ \$128. When making reservation at the Kayenta Monument Valley Resort, call (928) 697-3221 and refer to Color Country Corvettes group reservation. We must have at least 6 rooms confirmed and reserved by March 16 to keep the rate, so book early!
- 2. Super 8 Motel, Green River, UT \$76.50. This hotel has an unusual way of handling groups. <u>Before calling the motel to make a reservation, call or email me and I will give you a confirmation number to be used when you call the motel.</u>







If you have any questions, contact Derek or Shelby Hall

Derek <u>derek@ukderek.net</u> 360-292-3098 Shelby <u>shelby@shelbythall.com</u> 801-360-7585



MEMBER ADS



Significant Details Fine Auto Finishing

Paul McMullin

(435) 632-4412





(435) 319-8399

www.jrwrodsandcustoms.com

Your First Class Travel Agency Doug Rosa

435-272-3773

www.designtravelrogers.com

doug@designtravelrogers.com

MEMBER AD RATES

12 months - Business Card: free

1/4 page Ad:\$25/year

½ page Ad:\$50/year

Full page Ad:\$75/year



FOR SALE



John and Jo Johnson are selling their 2015 Shark Grey Z-06

This is a real beauty that has only 14K miles It has been well maintained and garaged.



Contact John or Jo Johnson at John: javinej49@gmail,com 435-429-6004 Jo javinej049@gmail.com 435-429-6004

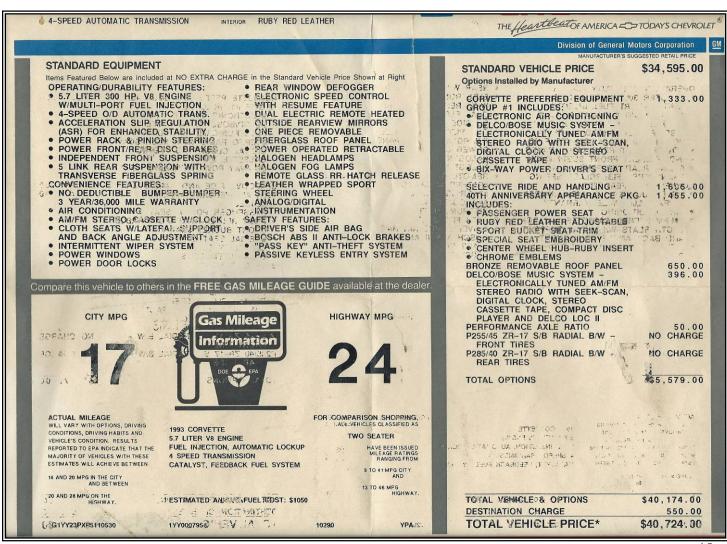
FOR SALE

93 Coupe Ruby Red 40th Anniversary Commemorative Edition

tterior Ruby Red, miles 57,800, runs great. Very good con

1993 marked the fourth decade of America's sports car with a very special commemorative edition- the 40th Anniversary Edition. This was an option package that was made available on all 1993 Corvette models, Coupe, Convertible, and ZR-1. All 40th Anniversary Edition Corvettes (and only 40th Anniversary Edition Corvettes) are Ruby Red from the inside out. With a unique deep-shining metallic, special 40th-anniversary emblems, and stunning ruby red interior.

Phone or text Gary Odenwalder 801-599-1747 - Asking \$10,000





Total Price



\$17,300

\$24,600

1993 Chevrolet Corvette Prices and Values 2 Door Coupe 40th Anniversary

Values Values High Original Low Average Retail Retail MSRP Retail \$17,300 \$24,600 N/A \$12,350 Base Price Options (Add)

\$12,350

N/A





Z06 FLOOR MATS ALMOST NEW! \$220.00CONTACT GARY HIGGINS - 435-899-0487 - 760-625-3313



10 Interesting Automotive History Facts

- 1. Back in 1900, a new car company named Horch appeared in Germany, founded by former Benz engineer August Horch. He didn't get along with his directors and, when he left nine years later, the company took legal action to prevent him from putting his name on any new automobile. Horch roughly translates to "listen," so he used the Latin version: Audi
- 2. The MacPherson strut is a spring/shock absorber combination used on the front suspension of most of today's front-wheel-drive cars. It was invented in 1947 by Chevrolet engineer Earle S. MacPherson for the rear suspension of a planned compact model called the Cadet. The car was never built, and a disappointed MacPherson left GM and moved to England to work for Ford.
- 3. From 1956 to 1959, you could order your Chrysler with a record player. You got six discs with the car and could buy more from the dealer, but your choices were limited to artists signed with Columbia, which made the unique records that worked with the player. They tended to skip over bumps and didn't work very well, and disappeared for 1962.
- 4. The first Chevrolet Corvette, introduced for 1953, didn't have any outside door handles. It was a soft-top roadster that also lacked side windows, so you simply reached inside to unlatch the door.
- 5. Henry Ford started two unsuccessful companies before hitting his mark with the third, the one that exists today. His second company was taken over by its board and run by director Henry Leland, who renamed it Cadillac to build cars of his own design. After selling Cadillac to General Motors, Leland started Lincoln, which Ford eventually purchased.
- 6. Studebakers were built in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada for two years after the automaker closed in South Bend, Indiana, in 1964. Because the government now considered it a Canadian automaker, it could import cars duty-free. To make extra money, the cash-strapped company bought Volkswagens in Germany and sold them to VW Canada. Even with Studebaker's markup, the cars cost less than what VW would have paid to bring them in. Studebaker also tried to distribute Japanese cars but the deal fell through, partly due to a Studebaker board member on the advice of his law partner: future U.S. president Richard Nixon.
- 7. Charles Rolls, co-founder of Rolls-Royce, was the first Englishman ever killed in an airplane and the 12th person worldwide when the Wright Brothers biplane he was flying at an air show in Bournemouth, England, in 1910 snapped its tail and crashed. Henry Royce ran the company after his partner's death, mailing instructions to his employees when deteriorating health confined him to his home.
- 8. The first production Ford Mustang went on a tour of the U.S. and Canada in 1964, and was eventually sold to airline pilot Stan Tucker in St. John's, Nfld. Two years and some 16,000 kilometers later, Ford realized the car's significance, swapped Tucker a brand new 1966 Mustang for it, and donated it to the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan.
- 9. The tow truck dates to 1916, when Ernest Holmes of Chattanooga, Tenn. was asked to help pull a crashed Ford Model T out of a creek. It took 11 men almost a day to do it with ropes and blocks. Figuring there had to be a better way; Holmes bolted three poles to a 1913 Cadillac chassis, added a pulley and ran a chain through it, which provided leverage to lift vehicles. He also built up a truck body on the chassis for tool storage. His patented design became the standard for vehicle recovery.
- 10. BMW started as an aircraft company, moved into motorcycles and truck engines, and in 1928 built its first car, the Dixi, a licensed version of the British Austin Seven. Bigger and better models followed, but the company fell on hard times after World War II. It was saved in 1955 by the Isetta, its version of a tiny Italian model. It used a motorcycle engine and its single door was the car's front end, but its low price resounded with buyers, and its success put the automaker back on track.



BAD BOYS-BAD BOYS



WHATCHA GONNA DO WHEN THEY COME FOR YOU??



SPONSOR PAGE









Ken W. Lynch General Manager 1670 S. Hilton Dr. Saint George, UT 84770

www.stephenwadecadillac.com kenl@stephenwade.com



435.256.2679 Mobile 435.319.4737 Office 435.628.0732 Fax 435.986.7903 Direct





Brian Weld Sales Consultant 1670 S. Hilton Dr. Saint George, UT 84770

www.stephenwadecadillac.com brian.weld@stephenwade.com



435.218.6251 Mobile 435.986.7924 Direct 435.319.4737 Office 435.673.7401 Fax





Robert Rashid Service Manager

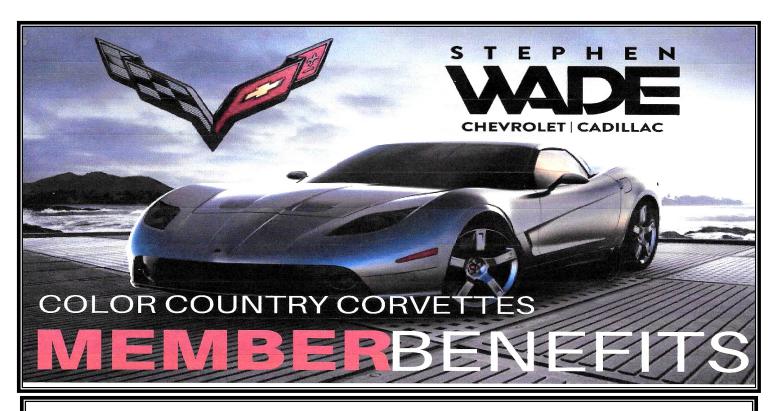
1670 S. Hilton Dr. Saint George, UT 84770

www.stephenwadecadillac.com robertr@stepenwade.com



435.319.4737 Office 435.986.7976 Fax 435.986.7951 Direct





A REDUCED SERVICE DEPARTMENT LABOR RATE SPECIAL CLUB PRICING ON ALL PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

GM supplier price on Chevrolet vehicles in stock

Does not qualify for limited availability product

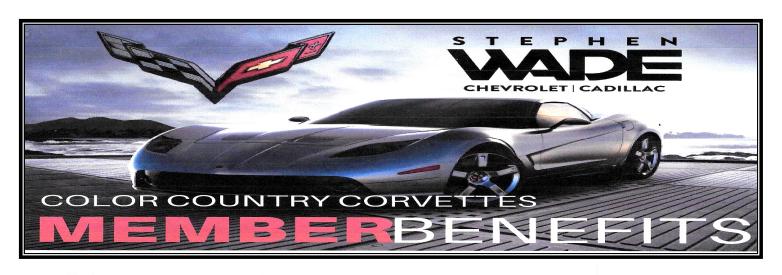
Stephen Wade Chevrolet Parts Department

Factory-trained mechanics and access to genuine Chevrolet parts

When your car needs routine maintenance or repair, you want the people working on it to know and understand your vehicle so the job is performed quickly and correctly the first time. Factory-trained mechanics and access to genuine parts go a long way to ensuring that your is vehicle well-cared for and kept in prime operating condition.

Our technicians are up-to-date on the latest service bulletins, recalls, parts changes and service procedures – a claim that other shops simply cannot make. The benefits of timely routine maintenance shouldn't be underestimated. A well-maintained vehicle is more efficient, safer, more valuable and more enjoyable to own. Ignoring important maintenance items might save a little money in the short term, but there's great potential for more expensive repairs in the long term by doing so.

OVER THE COUNTER PARTS AT DISCOUNT PRICES WE PRICE MATCH ON TIRES



CORVETTE CLUB PRICING OCTOBER 2019

LABOR RATE-\$85.00 HR UNTIL 12/31/19

LABOR RATE-\$95.00 HR EFFECTIVE 1/1/20

PARTS ARE 15% OFF OF MSRP (LIST PRICING)

10% OFF OF MAINTENANCE (INCLUDES OIL AND FILTER CHANGES)

10% OFF OF ALL OTHER MENU TYPE ITEMS (INCLUDES WHEEL **ALIGNMENT, BRAKE PADS)**

TIRES CAN BE PRICE MATCHED WITH EITHER DISCOUNT TIRE OR **COSTCO AND THE LABOR CHARGE FOR CORVETTES IS \$50.00 PER** TIRE TO MOUNT AND BALANCE. NON-CORVETTES ARE \$25.00 EACH

WE ARE UNABLE TO COMBINE THIS PRICING WITH OTHER COUPONS FROM GM OR ANYONE ELSE.

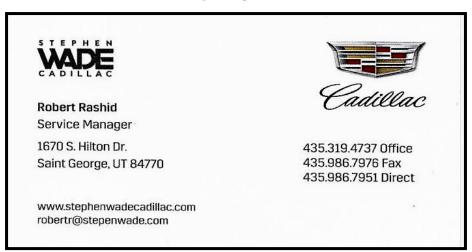
SIGN UP FOR REWARDS AT MYCHEVROLETREWARDS.COM

THESE DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR GM VEHICLES

YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION IS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ME:

ROBERT RASHID (435)986-7951 OR ROBERTR@STEPHENWADE.COM





NEW CORVETTES

PRE OWNED CORVETTES

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO NEW OR PRE OWNED CORVETTES FOR SALE

ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND AVAILABILITY

CAR & VETTE NEWS

Chevrolet Will Lose Money on Every Sub-\$80K C8 Corvette Stingray Sold

If you can believe a story posted last week by *MotorTrend*, the <u>mid-engine</u> Corvette's starting price below \$60,000 really is too good to be true.

MotorTrend has previously reported that the C8 Corvette will see a price increase for the 2021 model year. Now the magazine says a senior GM source tells them that increase would have to be around



\$20,000 to cover the actual cost of the car, a hike we know won't be happening to keep customers from revolting. Is this all a ploy to make customers accept a price hike of, say, \$2,000 in 2021 and think we're lucky it's not a whole lot more? Could this leak just be a marketing strategy?

This senior source claims that GM's original budget for the mid-engine Corvette assumed a starting price of \$79,995, but we find it hard to believe the company ever seriously considered raising the base price of the Corvette that much. While it's definitely nice to have the better performance of the mid-engine car, GM had to know all along that customers wouldn't fork out that much extra cash so it's likely they've done the numbers and know for sure the C8 can still be a big money-maker for the company even with a base price less than \$60K. After all, they wouldn't be in business for long if they intentionally set out to lose money on a car.

MotorTrend's source claims that GM needs to sell enough options to raise the MSRP to around \$80,000 before it starts making a profit. If you've played around with the <u>Build & Price tools</u> online, you know that it's easy to add enough goodies to rapidly reach that level. Fortunately, our own build topped out around \$72,000 – minus the Z51 package, of course, but including options like the 2LT package, highwing spoiler, front lift, and performance exhaust.

We're sure most of the early adopters will not be as frugal and will easily see their final totals hit the \$80,000 and maybe even \$90,000 mark. After all, raising the price from \$60,000 to \$80,000 doesn't really add that much to the monthly payment in the grand scheme of things if you have to finance.

In the end, GM is likely to make as much or more money on the C8 as it did on the C7, which is reputed to have made the company about \$2 billion during its six-year run, or a neat \$10,000 profit per car.

It's not likely the bean-counters at GM would have ever given the mid-engine car the green light, if they didn't think it would be a big money-maker overall.

And, while the rumors about the upcoming Z06 and ZR1 sound mighty impressive with their increased performance, *MotorTrend*'s source warns that GM will have to be careful not to charge too much for those super models as sales tend to drop off tremendously once the price passes \$100,000.

Says *MotorTrend*: "According to our source, the sweet spot for profit and volume is between \$80,000 and \$100,000. Once the car crests six figures, our source says, sales volume drops off precipitously. This will be a trick for Chevrolet, because the C7 Z06 starts at \$82,990, which doesn't leave the company much room for an increase without upsetting customers and breaking out of the sweet spot in price and volume."

Allow us to play devil's advocate for a minute. The whole idea that the mid-engine car HAS to cost significantly more than the front-engine car has always left us a little skeptical. While the engineering costs are reputed to have been more for the mid-engine car, we still wonder why. GM would be paying the same folks for their engineering efforts no matter if the engine is in the front or the middle, and the materials are likely to cost much the same for a mid-engine frame and fenders as they do for the front-engine.

Why does it necessarily have to be significantly more expensive just because the engine changed places? If that was the case, why didn't a Fiero cost \$50,000 back in the day? And one more thing, if GM expected to lose money on the base C8, why did it invest hundreds of millions of dollars in new equipment and buildings at Bowling Green? Just saying...

GM CEO Mary Barra Talks C8 Corvette Pricing and Spinning Off Corvette as a Brand

If you ever doubted the faith General Motors has in the future of the Chevrolet Corvette, listen to Chairman and CEO <u>Mary Barra</u> in this <u>exclusive wide-ranging interview</u> with MotorTrend.

It was time for Corvette to make the move to a mid-engine architecture, she said, "and it was a huge investment, but it was something we really believed in. We believed it was important for the Chevrolet brand, for the Corvette franchise itself."



And, speaking of brands, Barra says GM would never rush into a decision amid internet speculation that the company is considering spinning off the Corvette into its own brand.

"I think you have to be really careful," she warns, "because you have to understand what makes the brand. So I'm not going to say never, but I think if General Motors were to ever do anything, we would assess it very, very carefully. Corvette means something so special to so many people."

We get the feeling that Chevrolet is the place the company wants the Corvette to remain.

Just listen to Barra's comments: "What I think is really important is Chevrolet is a home for Corvette and Chevrolet is American, and it's value, it's ingenuity. I think all of that is captured."

She says Corvette "represents all that Chevrolet means, and part of that is, I think, that it is obtainable. So I think we will work really hard to make sure that we always live true to the Chevrolet brand, which is American, it's value, it's ingenuity."

And, speaking of value, Barra wouldn't say yes or no when asked by MotorTrend if the base price of the 2021 Corvette would increase, amid recent reports that the company is losing bundles of money at the current \$59,995 starting point for the 2020 model.

"It'll depend on how people content it," she said.

We assume that means GM is hoping the low entry price will draw in customers, who will then proceed to check off enough option boxes for the company to make a profit. For example, the Z51 3LT model tested by MotorTrend listed for \$88,305.

Barra said GM never considered keeping a front-engine Corvette as an entry-level model, alongside a more expensive mid-engine model.

"I think as we looked at it, we stepped back, and I think Tadge (Juechter, Corvette chief engineer) probably said it best when he said we had really taken the C7, that architecture style, as far as we could go without going to mid-engine. So it was time...."

Barra says it's also time to begin seeing C8s on dealer lots, with the production of the car delayed a couple of months because of the UAW strike. Longtime salesman Mike Furman said in an email to customers this week that he guesses the first deliveries could be made beginning at the end of February.

In sum, Barra believes in the future of the Corvette, saying that it "pulls together and represents what the product development and marketing teams are capable of, truly understanding the customer and creating a leading vehicle that's still affordable. I can't wait until they're in customer hands."

How C8 Corvette Designers and Engineers Collaborated to Showcase the LT2 V8 Engine

Even the bolts that hold the <u>2020</u> Corvette Stingray together are unique to the latest rendition of America's Sports Car.

That's just one of the outcomes of the collaborative effort between Chevy engineers and designers that wound up touching all aspects of the new mid-engine Corvette, even something as minute as the bolts.

But since the C8 represented such a massive change for the Corvette, the company took the opportunity to



ensure that it not only performed like an exotic car, but that it also looked the part.

Hence, the joint effort by engineers and designers, even though sometimes their worlds can be like oil and water.

"Engineers, we're very functional. Every feature, every facet you see of course is purposeful, but generally, in our mindset, it's just purposeful," said Mike Kociba, GM's assistant chief engineer for small block engines. "Now you want to take that extra step and say it not just has a function, it has a style. That really takes us out of our comfort zone."

But it was critical to have that kind of sometimes uncomfortable teamwork since the engine in the 2020 Corvette is widely considered the "jewel" in the Corvette "ring" since it is on display to the world through a large glass opening in the hatch.

"The engine really was intended all along to be a kind of showpiece of the car," Kociba said in an interview with Automotive News (Dec. 2, 2019). "There is now a window. You can see into our world directly for the first time."

It took engineers and designers about a year before they were able to reach all their design and performance goals with the new LT2 engine, which they wanted to be the equal of the much more expensive Ferrari or Lamborghini.

"Even though we didn't have the same price point, we still need to execute just as well," said Paul Arnone, lead creative designer for performance interiors.

That means making sure that the finishes on each component in the engine compartment was in "color harmony," Arnone said, a concept that originally met with some "deer in the headlight" looks from engineers.

"The first time I tried to explain beautification [to the engineers], they looked at me like I had three eyes," Arnone said.

For example, the concept that the black shade on some parts wasn't "warm enough" puzzled Kociba.

"It's almost a whole different language that they use," he said. "As an engineer, I have no idea what temperature has to do with color. As you start working with them and they show you different examples, it absolutely makes sense."

That includes the red engine cover that looks aggressive and high-tech, according to Kirk Bennion, exterior design manager. "It has a little bit of spinal quality in the veins going down the middle," he said. "It sets a different tone of the car. It's not timid or anything like that. It's a provocative part."

At the same time, design wasn't meant to take away from function. Instead, all the parts are meant to work in harmony, Arnone said, pointing out that the engine cover is "integrated into the workings of the engine."

That's why the two departments worked hand in hand on virtually every part under the hood and hatch in an effort "just to make sure the car was truly and wholly designed" and "just wasn't piecemealed together," he said.

That ambitious goal led to big consideration on small parts, even bolts that designers drew inspiration for from <u>Ducati motorcycles</u>. "All their bolts are internal drive, and they have a nice finish to them," Arnone said. "They don't scratch or mark."

Since GM's engineering criteria doesn't allow bolts with an internal drive, the C8 team came up with a dual-drive bolt with a cleaner, more stylized look.

"It's unique to the Corvette right now," Arnone said. "It was definitely a different aspect of my job. I've been doing this for a while, and I've never helped develop a bolt."

But then GM had never before worked on a production mid-engine Corvette.

Chevrolet Discounts Can Save You Nearly \$12,000 on Remaining 2019 Corvettes

Corvette buyers wanting a new 2019 model under the Christmas tree this holiday season will have a December to Remember (to borrow the phrase from an automotive commercial that always runs at the end of year) as Chevrolet has finally stepped up and is offering huge discounts via employee pricing and bonus cash on all new 2019 Corvettes.



The good news is that the discounts are open to every buyer, not just current Corvette owners.

Since April, Chevrolet has offered a \$3000 loyalty bonus that was available to current Corvette owners but starting in December, they dropped it to \$2000 and opened it up so now everyone can qualify for it.

For the third straight year, Chevrolet has offered employee pricing sale at the end of the year and it's a great opportunity to save thousands on new Corvettes. On the <u>Offers page at Chevrolet.com</u>, they show a 2019 Corvette Z06 with the \$9,885 employee discount for everyone plus the \$2,000 Bonus Cash for a total savings of \$11,885.

At the other end of the pricing spectrum is the 2019 Corvette Stingray 1LT which has an MSRP of \$56,995. Chevy's Employee Pricing marks this vehicle down by \$5,585 and with the \$2,000 cash bonus stacked, the total discount brings the car down to \$49,410 before taxes & fees.

Some Corvette dealers are offering even better savings than that so you might be able to save even more money by shopping at one of the larger volume dealers.

As an example, our friends at Bomnin Chevrolet in Miami are offering that same <u>2019 Corvette Stingray 1LT</u> with a discount of \$11,723 off the MSRP which brings the sale price to \$44,867. At MacMulkin Chevrolet, we found <u>2019 Corvette Grandsports with 2LT trims</u> with a 21% discount which makes the at \$58,882 MSRP cheaper than the \$59,995 MSRP that the 2020 Corvette Stingray will be starting at.

The good news is that there is <u>plenty of inventory out there</u> so the likelihood of you finding your dream Corvette with all the options are pretty good right now. But you better hurry as these deals won't last! See your Chevrolet dealer for additional details.

Chevrolet May Offer A Performance Hybrid Option On All C8 Corvette Models

We've been hearing rumors for some time now about Chevrolet offering a hybrid C8 Corvette ZORA/ZR1 model that will combine the mid-engine V8 with a front-mounted electric motor system which will provide upwards of a combined 900 horsepower, as well as finally adding AWD capabilities to the Corvette for the first time.



That sounds all well and good for those with deep pockets who can afford a ZR1 as the last two models have sold for an MSRP of \$118K and higher. But thanks to a report from Jalopnik, Chevrolet could be looking at "democratizing the performance hybrid" (shout out to Matt Farah for that phrase) by offering it on all models including the base Stingray!

Jalopnik's Bozi Tatarevic says that they have seen engineering documents that offer details on the hybrid Corvette's electric motor, battery pack and associated electronics and that these can be implemented on C8 Corvette models ranging from the base model Stingray to the top of the line ZORA/ZR1. In fact, those documents allegedly show the AWD base Corvette will be available in both Coupe and Convertible configurations featuring the LT2 V8 engine. With the 85-kW electric motor on the front axle providing about 114-hp, the combined power of the hybrid LT2 should be around 550-600 hp.

Packaging for the system would take advantage of the C8 Corvette's frunk while the smallish-sized 1.94-kWh lithium-ion battery pack would be mounted in the Corvette's central tunnel. The system's main goal will be to improving launches and other performance-improving capabilities, and it's said that the motor can adjust torque and boost to each of the front wheels individually as needed.

A similar set-up is offered in the Acura NSX and although we are unsure if GM used the NSX as a benchmark against the C8 Corvettes, Bozi says that the two systems are very similar in both battery size as well as how the hybrid system is used primarily for performance, as the NSX can only go a few miles on all-electric power at low speeds.

Let's not also forget that we have several sightings of early C8 prototypes with special battery connections and on/off switches coming through the body and VINs that indicate they are 2021 models. A GM spokesperson took umbrage with us for calling these "<u>Hybrid Corvettes</u>", but we know <u>they lie on purpose</u> about future product offerings so we've never fully conceded that these aren't hybrid test cars.

Thearticle also offers additional specs on what everyone is calling the Corvette E-Ray, a name that GM trademarked back in 2015. The tires for the hybrid AWD Corvette are staggered with all-season Michelins that are sized 20x10s in the front and 21x13s in the rear (275/30R20 and 345/25R21). A two-piece carbon-ceramic brake will utilize the J57 RPO code with the brakes most likely from sourced from Brembo.

If these plans come to fruition, the hybrid Corvette could offer the biggest leap forward in Corvette performance since Zora first stuffed a V8 into the Corvette's engine bay. While there may be some enthusiasts that balk at the thought of a hybrid, we think this system would offer a very fast car with excellent handling capabilities across all model lines.

2020 Corvette is Sold Out According to GM's North American President

We've heard for months now that the <u>C8 Corvette</u> is going to be hard to find for 2020.

Now, GM North America President Barry Engle has confirmed to *MotorTrend* that all 40,000 of the C8s that Chevrolet plans to build for 2020 are already accounted for.



That probably means that dealer allocations have been filled for the slots for both the coupe and convertible versions.

But don't give up hope, prospective buyers, because a lot can happen between now and the end of the model year.

In fact, the dealers we talk to always hate these kinds of "sold out" announcements as they feel it stops people from inquiring about availability. As the orders start up again, there will be those who will give up their allocation, and once cars are built some might have to back out of their deal as well. So don't stop looking for an opportunity from dealers as there will be Corvettes available.

We wonder if this announcement by Engel is just a ploy to generate more interest in the Corvette, as if the new mid-engine sensation needs more publicity! In fact, the new Stingray has already won several industry awards, including 2020 MotorTrend Car of the Year and Car and Driver 10 Best.

Engle is actually the second GM executive to push the "sold out" talk, as Vice President of Global Design Michael Simco said the car was "bound to be sold out soon" during a public appearance way back in August – just days after the car was unveiled.

Engle, meanwhile, made his announcement at the recent launch of the new big Chevy SUVs, the 2021 Tahoe and Suburban.

Production of the new Corvette was supposed to begin this month in Bowling Green, but the prolonged UAW strike pushed the start of the assembly line back to early February, with delivery predicted to be in late February or early March.



ON THE LIGHT SIDE





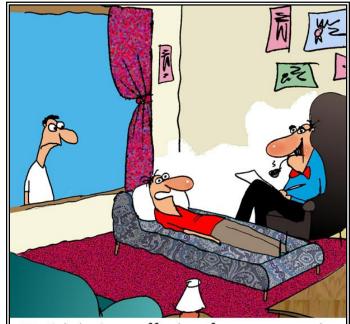
"If you really cared about my reputation, you'll get rid of that minivan and take me to school in a new Corvette."



"Sorry I'm late. I wanted to wash my Corvette since it's not raining. Luckily, I didn't get my tie dirty."



"If you want to ride in my new Corvette, you'll need to shower first. I set up an outdoor shower for your convenience."



"I think I'm suffering from paranoia.

I parked too close to a guy's Corvette,
and I think he's been stalking me
ever since."