



CCRuisin'

The Official Newsletter of the Corvette Club of Richmond



February 2015

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2015 Winter Storm!!!!



Did everyone survive the Storm of the Year last week? Contrary to popular belief, our Corvettes don't actually melt in the snow or rain. They are made out of very durable materials. Mine is driven in all sorts of weather, as can be seen from the pictures taken on Feb. 12, 2014. While it is never recommended to

drive a high performance sports car in weather such as this, the C7 handled very well getting me home when my timing got me caught in a quick moving snow storm. Would I plan on driving my Corvette in the snow, no; but I now have full confidence that this amazing machine will get me home when needed in all sorts of weather!



A Message from the President

Dear Fellow CCR Members,

As I write this, I can see the last of the snow melting from Richmond's great blizzard of January 27! I am sure all of us are looking forward to spring weather to get those Corvettes out, shine them up, and go cruising!



Speaking of cruising, how about cruising around indoors at Thunderbolt Karting on Saturday, February 7? Brandon Kindall and Paul Murman are OD'ing this event and I plan to join them. Come on out and see if I can fit in one of the Karts-that should provide some entertainment value!

Next up in February is the General Membership Meeting on Friday, February 13. Don't let that date spook you. We will again meet on the Southside, and our after meeting gathering will be at King's Korner. King's Korner always does a good job for us-there will be the full buffet, soft drinks, ice tea or coffee, all for just \$15 per couple, \$8 single. A cash bar for adult drinks will also be available! Anyone who would like to make a suggestion for other Southside after party locations, I am all ears!

On Sunday, February 15 we have the fabulous Valentines Brunch at Meadowbrook Country Club. Gayle Murman and "Her People" always do a wonderful job organizing this, securing door prizes, and seeing to it that it is a most enjoyable event. The folks at Meadowbrook do a terrific job as well. If you are not already signed up you must contact Gayle and pay in advance.

That is it for February events. In March, Cecile and Ed Custer will be OD'ing the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU Bunny Run, on Saturday, March 28. Please support this event for the kids and bring lots of bunnies. If you have not participated before, you will be glad you did! And we gather for a group lunch afterwards to boot!

Your Board has been hard at work already with plans for two of the big events CCR holds each year, the CCR Roundup and the CCR Christmas Dinner Dance. The Roundup will be held on Saturday, June 6, again at Ironbridge Sports Park. The CCR Christmas Dinner Dance will be held once again at The Meadowbrook Country Club on Saturday, December 5th. Mark these dates in your calendar and please plan on attending!

As always, thanks to all you members that make this the best darn Corvette Club in the world!

Save the wave!

Your CCR buddy,

Kirby

Officers for 2015

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Note from the Editor

As we move into the new year, please be mindful of deadlines we must meet in order to keep the distribution of the newsletter running smoothly. Please make sure all articles, event recaps, and any other information is sent to the Newsletter Editor by the 25th of each month.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those members celebrating birthdays this month. May there be a shiny, new surprise in your driveway!

January

<i>Dot Corbin</i>	<i>1/2</i>
<i>Stacy Harper</i>	<i>1/3</i>
<i>Jim Chesser</i>	<i>1/3</i>
<i>Dianne Deis</i>	<i>1/4</i>
<i>Sue Ann Bickert</i>	<i>1/5</i>
<i>Jack Marshall</i>	<i>1/7</i>
<i>Bill Gladysz</i>	<i>1/8</i>
<i>James Spatola</i>	<i>1/9</i>
<i>Jim Cheek</i>	<i>1/11</i>
<i>Jerry Daniels</i>	<i>1/11</i>
<i>Craig Will</i>	<i>1/18</i>
<i>Dianna Flakerty</i>	<i>1/21</i>
<i>Bruce Griggs</i>	<i>1/22</i>
<i>Annie Alexander</i>	<i>1/23</i>
<i>Cynthia Beeson</i>	<i>1/24</i>
<i>Carl Wood</i>	<i>1/24</i>
<i>Margaret Wilson</i>	<i>1/28</i>
<i>Donna Carr</i>	<i>1/30</i>
<i>Robert Stansberry</i>	<i>1/31</i>

February

<i>Pat Brice</i>	<i>2/2</i>
<i>Kathy Paterek</i>	<i>2/9</i>
<i>Karen Blake</i>	<i>2/9</i>
<i>Joyce Bateman</i>	<i>2/10</i>
<i>Wylie DuBose</i>	<i>2/11</i>
<i>Lisa Butler</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>Vicky White</i>	<i>2/12</i>
<i>Donald Burke</i>	<i>2/14</i>
<i>Kay Fegely</i>	<i>2/15</i>
<i>Sandy DuBose</i>	<i>2/16</i>
<i>Wes Holt</i>	<i>2/16</i>
<i>Don Miser</i>	<i>2/16</i>
<i>Pat Roper</i>	<i>2/17</i>
<i>Bruce LaBarge</i>	<i>2/17</i>
<i>Bruce Bugay</i>	<i>2/18</i>
<i>Robert Buren Jr</i>	<i>2/20</i>
<i>Randy Foster</i>	<i>2/22</i>
<i>Teresa Tomlinson</i>	<i>2/22</i>
<i>Butch Bateman</i>	<i>2/26</i>
<i>Lloyd Smith</i>	<i>2/27</i>
<i>Beth Woods</i>	<i>2/28</i>

2015 Events Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 7	Thunderbolt Indoor Karting	Paul Murman/ Brandon Kindall
Friday, Feb. 13	Membership Meeting (South Side) - 7:30pm After Meeting Party: King's Korner	
Sunday, Feb. 15	Valentine's Day Brunch	Gayle Murman & Crew
Friday, Mar. 13	Membership Meeting (West End) - 7:30pm After Meeting Party: TBA	
Saturday, Mar. 28	Bunny Run	Cecile & Ed Custer
Friday, Apr. 10	Membership Meeting (West End) - 7:30pm After Meeting Party: TBA	
Saturday, Apr. 18	Captain Billy's	Dolans
Saturday, Apr. 25	RIR Corral	Bubba Carr
Saturday May 2	Monticello Cruise	Rick Franklin
Friday, May 8	Membership Meeting (South Side) - 7:30pm After Meeting Party: Franklin's	
Sunday, May 24	'Vettes for Vets (Williamsburg)	Kirby Montgomery
Saturday, June 6	CCR Round-up	Kirby Montgomery
Sunday, June 7	Ride For Kids	Barrie Deis
Friday, June 12	Membership Meeting (South Side) - 7:30pm After Meeting Party: Todd's	
Saturday, June 13	Wedding Celebration Cook Out	Brandon Kindall
Saturday, June 20	Progressive Dinner	New Kent Cont.
Friday, July 10	Membership Meeting (West End) - 7:30pm After Meeting Party: Montgomery's	

February MEETING

Friday, February 13th at our South Side Location

Our next General Membership Meeting will take place on Friday, February 13, 2015 at 7:30 PM at the Smith-Wagner Building in the Chesterfield County Complex, 9501 Lucy Corr Circle, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832 . There is plenty of parking available. So come early to visit in the parking lot with other members!

Meeting Directions (South Side)

From VA-288, take the exit for Iron Bridge Rd/ VA -10 East.

- Turn left at the first stoplight onto Court house Road. Proceed approximately 6/10 of a mile.
- Turn right onto Government Center Parkway. Proceed approximately 3/10 of a mile.
- Turn left onto Lucy Corr Circle. The Wagner Building is directly in front of you. Enter through the center doors off of the circle drive.

After Meeting Party, Friday, February 13th

Come join us at King's Korner for a full buffet, soft drinks, tea, and coffee for \$15 per couple, \$8 single. A cash bar will be available for those wishing to enjoy adult beverages.

7511 Airfield Drive Richmond, Va. 23237



JANUARY MEETING'S BIG WINNERS

CONGRATUALATIONS!!!!



\$5 Handshake—Graham Wilson

50/50 Winner—Graham Wilson



**Dinner Ticket—
Kirby Montgomery**





WELCOME NEW CCR MEMBERS !!



Richard & Emily Sloan

Mike Wilkins



Want to Become a CCR Member ?

In 1960, a small group of Corvette enthusiasts began to gather on a regular basis for fun and fellowship. The first official Club meeting took place in July of 1961. CCR is the oldest Corvette club in Virginia with membership approaching 400. To be eligible for regular membership, you must be a person of good character and own a Corvette. You must attend at least one meeting or event. If you don't own a Corvette, an "associate membership" is available. Associates can participate in all events and functions but have no voting rights. You'll make good friends, have fun and learn more about Corvettes. Club meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. After the meetings, there is usually a party where you can enjoy socializing with other club members.

Annual dues are \$25 for pilots or \$35 for both the pilot and co-pilot (includes spouse, or significant other/child). A membership application can be found on the CCR website:

www.corvetteclubofrichmond.com



WELCOME NEW CCR MEMBERS !!

November's New Members



Don & Suzanne Burke



Butch Earnhardt

John Jones

Jeff Denson



Event Recap

Phantom of the Opera

OD—Steve DuBosky

Planning a cruise with the vettes in January can be dicey but on Saturday, January 17 we lucked out with a fine day for driving to Norfolk to see Phantom of the Opera. Traffic was a non-issue and we were able to rendezvous at Doumar's for a quick lunch with those CCR members who chose to fly solo, as well as members from CCC of Williamsburg. Well fortified with burgers, fries, and shakes it was on to Chrysler Hall for the main event. Once again we parked around the fountain and immediately drew a crowd of other theater-goers to admire our wheels. Once in the theater we were treated to a wonderful performance of the longest-running Broadway show ever (opened January 1988 and still going strong)! The voices and acting were impeccable and the sets and special effects incredible. The show ended with a rousing standing ovation. Many of us then headed to the Doubletree to end the weekend with more food, fun, and fellowship, which is really what it's all about. Until next time.....



Event Recap

CCR GOES BOWLING

OD – GRAHAM & MARGARET WILSON



We started out on a rainy afternoon for our bowling event at Bowl America Eastern Bowl on Williamsburg Road in Eastern Henrico. Our members greeted one another, grabbed their bowling shoes, balls and let the games begin! On Lane 1 we had Donna, Bubba, Connie, Mike, Carrie, Mike and Rick. Lots of shouts, cheers and laughter were heard throughout the games with Mike Starr rolling a high score of 168 and Connie Douberly rolling a high score of 135! On Lane 2 we had Cindy, Ken, Brandon, Seth, Abigail and Erin as the competition and the laughter continued Brandon Kindall rolled a high game of 237! Cindy Williams

certainly had her game face on and rolled a high score of 120! On Lane 3 Graham, Margaret, John and Sheri were definitely competitive and even had a challenge going with one another to take out your opponent by any means necessary! Graham rolled a high game of 158 and Sheri Marshall rolled a 126! On Lane 4 The Two T's our members Terry and Thomas with Thomas Bolden rolling a high score of 201 and Terry Corbin rolling a high score of 125! I would also like to Thank our cheering squad Doris, Bob, Susie, John, Paul, Kathy and Gayle who came out to cheer our members on throughout this event.



After bowling for 2 hours our members had "bowled" up a hearty appetite and we all got in our cars and headed to Mexico Restaurant for an early dinner. Once there we were seated and orders were taken and the stories and laughter continued throughout the meal! Donna Carr was surprised with a birthday song and ice cream treat for her birthday! Graham and I would like to thank all of the members who came out to make this bowling event a success and fun was had by all who attended!



Upcoming Event

Go-Kart Racing Adventure *OD – Paul Murman and Brandon Kindall*

We are headed back to Thunderbolt Indoor Karting for an afternoon of racing and dinner after the event on Saturday, February 7, 2015. We plan on meeting at 3:00PM at the track and dinner to follow.

If you are not familiar with Thunderbolt Indoor Karting, their web-site states that, “As Richmond’s premiere destination for high-speed entertainment, Thunderbolt Indoor Karting proudly offers an extraordinary racing experience in a state-of-the-art, upscale environment. Our electric karts are fast—much faster off the line than the gas-fueled alternatives, reaching up to 45 mph for an exhilarating ride—almost as fast as a Porsche 911. Combined with our brand new climate-controlled facilities and custom track, Thunderbolt delivers a premium racing experience you can’t get anywhere else.”

“Reawaken your sense of adventure as you speed through our custom track, complete with twists and turns that keep you on your toes. Tap into your competitive spirit as you race other drivers, and challenge yourself to top the scores of Richmond’s finest. Make an entire lap around our track in less than 60 seconds—races are a total of 16 laps each, and last around 10 minutes.”

Date: February 7, 2015

Time: Around 3:00 PM

Dinner: After racing

Cost: With a minimum of ten racers; 1 race - \$19.95 per person; \$30 for two races; \$40 for three races

Address: 1365 Carmia Way, Richmond, VA 23235

Web Site: thunderboltkarting.com



Upcoming Event

Valentine's Day Brunch

ODs – Gayle Murman, Peggy Maloy, Janie Hughes and Val Miser

Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 12:00 pm

Meadowbrook Country Club

3700 Cogbill Road

Richmond, Virginia



Cost is \$27 per person

Valentine's Day is coming soon! Plan to spend this special day with the one you love and the ones who love Corvettes as much as you. The meal will include an omelet station, Belgian waffles, carved ham, bacon, sausage, potatoes, various salads, fruit, muffins, pastries, and an entire table of desserts, juices, coffee, tea, plus bottomless champagne.

Attire: Sunday dress, please

Please contact Gayle at 748-7695 for more information.

Please make your checks payable to Gayle Murman. Please mail your check to: 3501 Wood Dale Rd., Chester, VA 23831. Payment is due no later than February 13, 2015.

Upcoming Event

CCR 18th Annual Bunny Run

ODs – Cecile & Ed Custer

Saturday March 28, 2015

CCR members will be welcoming spring with our 19th Annual Bunny Run delivering plush bunnies to the patients at the Children’s Hospital of Richmond. This is our version of a teddy bear run, only better!! Again this year, CCR is inviting ALL Corvette owners to join us for this fun and extremely rewarding event. The only requirements for participation are that you drive a Corvette and bring 1 or more plush snuggly bunnies. All bunnies need to be new and in individual plastic bags. (Grocery produce bags work well and most stores will let you have them for free.)

We will meet at 12:15PM at Smith Turf & Irrigation located at 2201 Dabney Road (23230). (Behind the Sears Appliance Outlet) We will depart for Children’s Hospital at 12:45PM. We will enter through the Hospital’s Brook Road entrance and park along the side of the building until all of the children are in place and ready for our arrival. Once everyone is ready, our parade of spectacular Vettes will proceed and unload the bunnies. After unloading we will visit with the children, parents & staff and enjoy refreshments. This is a rain or shine event although it doesn’t dare rain until we have finished unloading our special cargo. Participants are invited to accompany us to lunch afterward around 2-2:30PM at Mission BBQ at Glenside & Broad (5440 Glenside Drive, 23228)

Wondering where the all of the bunnies come from? Many seasoned CCR bunny wranglers already stocked up during last year’s after Easter sales. Others of us will be hitting up everyone we know to donate bunnies in addition to the ones we buy. Fliers that you can post or distribute in order to collect bunnies from friends, family and co-workers will be available at the February meeting and on the CCR website.

If you can’t make the Bunny Run you can bring your bunnies to the February and March meetings. Contact CCR’s chief bunny wrangler, Cecile Custer via e-mail at: ccrbunnyrun2015@yahoo.com or phone at (804) 338-8362 with questions or to make other arrangements to contribute bunnies.

Hop to it and start gathering new stuffed bunnies from every one you know, don your bunny ears and join us on **March 28th** so we can make this our biggest & best Bunny Run yet.!



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CORVETTE *in the news*

The Most Practical New Car You Could Have Bought Last Year: 2014 Corvette Stingray

[Hal Bundrick](#)—www.mainstreet.com

NEW YORK ([MainStreet](#)) — If you're looking for a practical car, you're probably thinking about something like a thrifty compact; maybe you'd even eye a roomy sedan or a handy pickup. But what you should be considering is a Corvette Stingray. It's just the [sensible, practical thing to do](#). At least from a value retention standpoint. Of all the all-new or heavily redesigned vehicles put on the market last year, the 2014 'Vette held its value better than any of them. Rather than losing half of its MSRP once it was driven off the lot — [like so many vehicles do](#) — the new-breed Stingray retained nearly 85% of its value, leading the field in value in '14.



"We saw some real big winners and losers this past year when it comes to used vehicle value retention," said Jonathan Banks, executive analyst at the NADA Used Car Guide. "The 2014 Corvette dominated other models by retaining 84.7% of its typically-equipped manufacturer suggested retail price (MSRP), while the more practical Mitsubishi Mirage [performed the worst](#), holding only 54.5% of its original MSRP."

"We saw some real big winners and losers this past year when it comes to used vehicle value retention," said Jonathan Banks

So the 'Vette is your best value -- not to mention, it packs 455 horsepower. And with 17 mpg (city) and 29 mpg (highway), its city fuel economy is equal to and its highway mpg better than that of a Toyota 4Runner (22 mpg highway), though the 'Vette does list for \$20,000 more. However, the 4Runner only scored a lower 77% value retention.

REVS & RUMBLES @ THE NCM

By Barry Roper, NCM Ambassador/Lifetime Member



It's February and by the time you read this, a year will have passed since the world awoke February 12th to reports of a sinkhole swallowing eight Corvettes from the National Corvette Museum's storied display and dropping them into the bowels of the earth. Such theatrics were unheard of in the Museum's history and the fact that the lost cars were Corvettes made the happening of interest worldwide to car buffs and the less fanatic alike.



If you've followed the Museum's recovery process and decision making regarding the fate of the sinkhole, you already know that last November 9th was the last day to view the cavity before restoration of the floor and display area began. If reconstruction maintains its scheduled pace the project will be completed by July of this year. The massive boulders have been removed and sheet piling has been placed to block the cave openings. The hole has been filled with 4000 tons of fist-sized #2 stone. Mid-January marked the removal of the remaining portion of the original slab floor. By the middle of the current month, the electrical, water, and HVAC repairs should be in place. Forty-six micropiles and grade beams have been placed so that should another collapse occur, the new floor will remain intact. Cost of repairs and improvements to the building (not including the Corvette restorations) will run just north of 3.2 million dollars.

At the present time, four of the 'Great Eight' Corvettes are on display - the 2009 1.5 Millionth Corvette, the 1993 ZR-1 Spyder, the 1993 40th Anniversary Ruby Red, and the 1962 Tuxedo Black convertible. While some uncertainty still exists, the remaining four Corvettes were so extensively damaged that restoration of those vehicles is considered unlikely.

Also take note, unless you have already registered for the Museum in Motion Biltmore Estate/Tail of the Dragon scheduled for April 26th-29th this year, your only option is to occupy a space on the wait list as the event is already sold out. Another upcoming drive that we previewed toward the end of last year is the HPDE (High Performance Driving Event) at Virginia International Raceway in Danville, scheduled for June 29th-30th. If you're interested, watch the NCM web site for registration details because it traditionally sells out within a very brief time.



Corvette on top of world after Rolex 24 win



By Mike Brudenell, Detroit Free Press

GM brass and engineers have long hailed the Chevrolet Corvette as "world class."

If you own one — old or new — you'd probably agree.

Corvette is America's sports car, and enthusiasts have sung its praise since its debut on our streets in 1953 and on racetracks in southern California and Florida in 1956.

On Sunday, Corvette, which 12 times has paced the Indianapolis 500, proved again that it can match up on the track against the world's most expensive and highly developed cars.

With Spanish driver Antonio Garcia at the wheel, the yellow No. 3 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R flashed across the line at Daytona International Speedway for a hard-fought class victory in the 53rd Rolex 24.

In fact, the car finished fifth overall in the twice-around-the-clock Florida sports car endurance classic.

The No. 4 Corvette C7.R sister car placed third in the GT Le Mans class and eighth overall.

Considering that Garcia and teammates Jan Magnussen and Ryan Briscoe knocked off BMW, Porsche, Ferrari and Aston Martin in the process, the excitement at the RenCen today is understandable.

The C7.R Corvette is based on the production Z06 Corvette and is prepared and tuned meticulously by New Hudson-based Pratt and Miller Engineering on behalf of Corvette Racing.

Continued on next page.....



Continued.....

The 2015 Corvette model lineup was on display at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center the past two weeks. Sunday's Rolex 24 success validates its claim as world class, from a road-car and a race-car standing.

GM executives and drivers weren't holding back on what the win means to the car and manufacturer.

"Everyone on the team (Corvette Racing) worked so hard, and it shows," said Mark Reuss, GM executive vice president of global product development, purchasing and supply chain, who was in the pits for the Rolex 24. "The harder you work, the luckier you get. It all came together."

Reuss, who was born in Detroit and owned a 1967 Chevrolet Camaro as his first car, is a racing enthusiast. He is a certified test driver at the daunting Nürburgring racetrack in Germany and also a licensed Grand-Am Road Racing (now TUDOR United SportsCar Championship) driver.

Fellow GM executive Jim Campbell, U.S. vice president of performance vehicles and motorsports, echoed Reuss' sentiments.

"It is a special day to take this victory in front of our Chevrolet and Corvette owners," said Campbell, who has championed Chevrolet's position in racing, including NASCAR and IndyCar, for the past decade. "The support ... of Chevrolet fans (here) and around the world is a huge reason for today's success."



Among them, Garcia, Magnussen and Briscoe — the former Team Penske IndyCar driver — led 325 of the 725 laps their Corvette C7.R completed, just 15 fewer than overall Rolex 24 winners Scott Dixon, Tony Kanaan, Kyle Larson and Jamie McMurray in the Ford EcoBoost Daytona Prototype entry.

"Very proud I was in the right car," Garcia said. "We did just what we had to do — drive a perfect car and win."

Tech Tips

LONG-TERM / WINTER STORAGE

Truths, Myths and Fallacies



One of the most popular questions among Corvette owners is "how should I prepare my Corvette for long-term or winter storage? This age old question is just like the typical "which type of after-market exhaust system should I install" question. You're bound to get five hundred different answers and all of them could be different. Some people will tell you to completely drain the fuel tank and others will tell you not to do this. Some owners will tell you to put your Vette up on blocks and others will tell you not to. Above all of the uncertainty and mythical storage remedies you've heard of, you are sure of one thing: you want your Corvette to receive the very best care possible.

So what is the proper way to prepare your Corvette for long-term storage? The answer really depends upon the length of time the car will be in storage. To help us gain some insight into some of the more controversial issues such as engine and suspension preparation, we spoke with [General Motors Powertrain Engineers](#) and [Guldstrand Motorsports](#). This article addresses some of the uncertainty that revolves around proper long-term storage and will hopefully give you a better sense of confidence and security in knowing that your pride and joy has been properly prepared.

General Washing

Before placing your Corvette in long-term storage, be sure to properly wash the exterior in order to remove any environmental fallout from the paint such as bird droppings, tree sap, bugs, etc. Some of this fallout can be acidic and leave permanent marks in your Corvette's clearcoat. If you have a convertible Corvette, refer to our [Convertible Top Care](#) article for proper care procedures.

Clean the tires and wheels

This is one area that is often overlooked in terms of the quality of cleaning. The rubber in the tires is prone to oxidative stress due to road grime and ultraviolet rays from the sun. This oxidation can be seen in the form of a dark yellowish dirt that clings to the sidewalls of the tires. Using a soft brush and soapy water, scrub the tires to remove any built up oxidation and road grime. Once the tires are cleaned and dried, apply a good quality tire dressing.

Solvent vs. Water Based Tire Dressings

Most tire dressings are either water-based or solvent-based. Each type uses silicone which is the key ingredient that gives tires that shiny, wet look. The more silicone in the product, the shinier the tire will be after application. Solvent based dressings work by soaking into the rubber, thus pulling the silicone in with them. This type of dressing tends to be more durable and last longer, however they also tend to pull the "black" out of the rubber and change the composition of the rubber with extended use over time. Because of this, some tire companies will actually void your warranty if you use a high volume, solvent based silicone product on their tires. Water-based dressings sit on the surface of the tire and do not pull the silicone into the rubber as solvent-based dressings do. They will provide the same quality shine as the solvent based products do, but they are not as durable and will not last as long.

Tech Tips

LONG-TERM / WINTER STORAGE

Truths, Myths and Fallacies



Brake dust can accumulate on the wheels and over time, can permanently stain the wheel finish if the wheels are painted and/or clear coated. There are several different brands of wheel cleaners on the market. Make sure that if your wheels are clear coated, you use a wheel cleaner that specifically states that it's safe to use on clear coated wheels. Because most wheel cleaners are caustic and harmful to brake components, be sure to never spray the wheel cleaner directly on the wheel. Instead, dampen a cleaning cloth with the wheel cleaner first and then apply.

Flat Spotting

These days, flat spotting isn't as much of an issue as it was years ago. Due to changes in composition and technology, today's tires are less prone to flat spotting than they were back in the days when '67 big blocks were prowling the streets. Any flat spotting that does occur to today's tire usually disappears within 20-30 minutes of normal driving time at normal highway speeds.

Regardless, some of the owners we spoke to prefer to place their cars on jack stands in order to remove the constant pressure on the tires. Some owners don't like to do this because they feel that it places the car's suspension in an unnatural state that when combined with the added weight of the tires and wheels, could cause permanent damage to the suspension over time. To help settle this dispute, we went to the leading authority on Corvette suspension design and engineering, [Guldstrand Motorsports](#). "We suggest that when people put their cars away for the winter months, they put the cars on stands and remove and bag the tires. This prevents any moisture from having harmful effects [on the tires]. Allowing the suspension to hang is really the least of their worries, and is not detrimental" said Dave Tillotson, Guldstrand's Operations Director. If you choose to remove the tires and wheels from the vehicle prior to storage, please see our [Tire Storage Recommendations](#) page from Goodyear for more helpful storage tips.

Some owners feel that specially designed tire cradles, tiles, plastic forms or pieces of cardboard under the tires help to prevent flat-spotting and some owners don't. Most of this is trial and error and there is no easy way to determine what works and what doesn't. It's mostly based upon experience and personal preference.

One method that has proven reliable to this author in the past is to over-inflate the tires to the maximum allowed pressure specified on the sidewall of the tires by the tire manufacturer. By over-inflating the tires, you're hindering their pliability and increasing their resistance to flatten. Just make sure to deflate the tires to the recommended normal operating pressure before driving.

Tech Tips

LONG-TERM / WINTER STORAGE

Truths, Myths and Fallacies



Polish and Wax

After a thorough wash, apply a good quality polish and wax to your Corvette's paint. Contrary to popular belief, there is a difference between a polish and a wax. A polish (also known as "glaze") contains a small amount of abrasives that actually remove a thin layer of clear coat or paint off the surface. Some manufacturers include oils and nutrients in their polishes that they claim help to nourish the paint and prevent oxidation from occurring. A wax does not contain any abrasives and seals the paint therefore protecting your Corvette's finish. It provides a protective layer to prevent exposure to the elements and related fallout. A good rule of thumb is to apply a coat of polish and then seal that with one or two coats of wax.

Mequiars, 3M Car Care Products and Zaino are just a few examples of high quality paint care products that are popular among Corvette owners.

For applying and removing the wax and polish, make sure to use 100% cotton terrycloth hand towels that are made in the United States. Although the manufacturer tags on some hand towels will indicate that they are made of 100% cotton, some foreign countries have different regulations when it comes to the amount of cotton and other fibers used in the composition of their towels. These other fibers, such as polyester can leave tiny scratches in the clear coat. In order to keep your polishing towels clean, do not use laundry detergents or fabric softeners. Even though your towels may feel nice and soft, fabric softeners contain oils that give them that soft touch. When applied to your Corvette's finish, these oils can leave a milky, cloudy haze on the surface of the paint. This oily layer smears easily when wiped and proves difficult to remove without the use of a "paint cleaner". Keep in mind that a lot of laundry detergents come with fabric softeners mixed in, so make sure you read the ingredients prior to use.

Exterior Trim

Another frequently overlooked area to prepare is the exterior trim components of your Corvette. These include, weather-stripping, door hinges, hood latches and release pawls, pivots, and spring anchors.

For the weather-stripping, use a non-solvent based, silicone lubricant or grease. Mequiars Vinyl and Rubber Cleaner and Conditioner is one example and GM Goodwrench Dielectric Silicone Grease (part no. 12345579) is another. If you choose to use the silicone grease, apply a small amount to the weather-stripping using your fingers. Wipe off any excess with a clean rag.

For the door hinges, hood latches and related hardware, use Lubriplate Lubricant (GM part no. 12346293). This is similar to white lithium grease which can be applied using your fingers. If you can't find this product at your local Chevrolet parts department, try GM SuperLube (GM part no. 12346241). This lubricant is similar to WD-40 and contains teflon.

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Interior Care

The cleanliness of your Corvette's interior is just as important as the exterior prior to long-term storage. The most important parts of your interior are the leather surfaces. These usually consist of the seats, steering wheel, shifter knob and boot. During the summer, leather surfaces tend to become very hot during extended periods of sun exposure. As a result, you're bound to sweat a little when you first sit down in your Corvette. Sweat is very acidic and over time, can prematurely age your leather seating surfaces if they go untreated. That's why it's important to choose a high quality leather cleaner and/or conditioner for the leather components of the interior. Several companies, including Meguiars and Lexol, make excellent products that are easy to apply and most of these can be found in your local automotive supply store. Make sure you read the directions that come with each product before use.

To prevent moisture buildup and possible mold formation on interior components, you may want to consider adding desiccant (a chemical that removes moisture from the air) to various parts of your interior. Companies such as [Beach Filter Products, Inc.](#), [Ecklers Corvette Parts and Accessories](#), and [MidAmerica Designs, Inc](#) supply special pouches of desiccant that can easily be placed in foot wells, seats and rear cargo hatch areas. For more information on properly treating your interior, take a look at our article on the [Maintenance of Vinyl, Leather, Plastic, and Rubber Surfaces](#).

Engine Care

Another common area of misconception is proper engine storage. Some of the confusion comes from the fact that the Corvette has been around for almost 50 years. During those 50 years, automotive technology and electronics have experienced enormous growth and change. As a result, different generations of Corvette have different needs when it comes to care and maintenance.

Based upon conversations we had with owners of both old and new Corvettes, the majority of owners of Corvettes prior to the 1984 model year prefer to remove their spark plugs and squirt a small amount of motor oil into the cylinders. In order to understand why they do this, you need to understand the general purpose of an engine lubricant.

The main function of motor oil is to reduce friction between two metal surfaces in motion. Some of these metal surfaces can have microscopic high points or peaks. When these metal surfaces rub together, enough heat can be produced to actually weld those peaks together. The peaks can be broken off, dragged and re-welded over and over again. This is known as scuffing, which can eventually cause permanent engine damage.

Over time, the lubricant film that lines the cylinder walls underneath the piston, gradually recedes leaving the walls exposed. As the piston travels up and down the cylinder upon startup, a few critical seconds exist where two metal surfaces are rubbing together without proper lubrication. You now have an ideal environment for scuffing to occur. To prevent this, owners believe that removing the spark plugs and squirting a small amount of oil into each cylinder can help prevent this from occurring. It all seems to make sense, right?

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If it did, we would expect the owners of newer Corvettes to practice this same method. Not so. Based upon conversations with owners of 1984 Corvettes and up, other than changing the oil and filter, removing the spark plugs and adding a small amount of oil to each cylinder was rarely mentioned. This could be due to several possibilities. Are the spark plugs much harder to reach on an LT1 or LS1 engine as compared to an old 1968 L36 big block? Or has technology advanced far enough that today's engines are able to stay lubricated longer during extended periods of inactivity? To help us understand the proper way to prepare an engine for long-term storage, we spoke to David A. Scott, Senior Service Engineer, at General Motors Service Parts Operations. He suggested that if an engine is to be stored for nine months or longer, "remove the spark plugs and add approximately one (1) ounce of engine oil to each cylinder. The engine should be rotated just after adding the oil to the cylinders. The purpose of this step is to coat the cylinder bore to protect against rust formation during storage. Also note, this procedure is repeated after extended (18 months and longer) storage before start up. These steps were recommended by both the Base Systems Engineer and the Fuels and Lubricants Engineer."

Battery

Owners of older Corvettes usually unplug and sometimes remove their batteries during long periods of storage which they feel works well for them. If you choose to remove the battery, do not place the battery directly on a concrete floor. Concrete has a tendency to discharge a battery which is the exact same thing you're trying to avoid by leaving it connected to the car. Use a piece of wood between the battery and the floor. Because batteries produce hydrogen gas which is flammable, do not store the battery where it will be exposed to open flame, or where it is exposed to children.

Some owners of newer Corvettes (1984 to the present) feel that battery disconnection and/or removal isn't a good idea given the large amount of onboard circuits in newer Corvettes. They prefer to use a "Battery Tender". The Battery Tender, produced by Halon Marketing, Inc., is a 1.25 amp battery charger capable of fully charging a battery and maintaining the batteries optimal charge. The unit is small, compact and comes with a 5-year warranty from the manufacturer.

We asked David Scott at GM if battery disconnection was a viable option for newer Corvettes. "Actually, it is because there are circuits using power when the vehicle is "off". Without a "Battery Tender" as you mentioned, the circuits would drain a battery in about 30 - 40 days. General Motors does not require / mandate that an owner have a charger going. We have typically recommended disconnecting the battery."

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Fluid Levels

Make sure to top off all fluid levels. These include coolant, brake fluid, clutch/transmission fluid and most importantly, oil and fuel. Over time, motor oil can become contaminated by dust, condensation, and even antifreeze and metallic shavings. Some motor oils contain additives which can break down over time and also act as contaminants. As these contaminants accumulate in the oil, sludge can form which will gradually adhere to internal engine components, causing your engine to perform less efficiently. Left long enough, this sludge can cause permanent engine damage. Combustion gases can also accumulate in the oil that will gradually lower the pH of your oil making it more acidic. Even if you only put 1,000 miles on your Corvette per year, make sure that you always change your oil and filter before placing it in long-term storage.

To do this, start and run the engine until it is brought up to normal operating temperature. If your Corvette is equipped with air-conditioning, the AC unit should be operated during this final engine warm-up to lubricate the compressor seal. Drain the oil and replace the filter. Refill with the type of oil recommended in your factory owner's manual. Last but not least, if you own a newer Corvette equipped with the engine oil life monitor, remember to reset the "Change Oil Light" as instructed in your owner's manual.

Fuel Stabilizer

Another important step is to make sure you top off the fuel in the tank and add a fuel stabilizer. Some owners prefer to completely drain the fuel tank and lines, but this may be an open invitation for condensation to build within the fuel system causing premature corrosion. Most fuel stabilizers, such as Stabil, can be purchased at any mainstream automotive parts store.

If your Corvette is carbureted, you should drain the carburetors of any residual gasoline. Remaining gasoline can evaporate and turn into a varnish that can coat and eventually clog the internal parts of a carburetor.

Mothballs

One of the biggest problems with long-term automotive storage is rodents. Depending on how secure the facility is that you store your Corvette in, one fact remains.... it's a source of protection from the elements for both your Corvette and those furry little critters. Most owners don't realize it, but certain brands of spark plug wires can become a meal for mice. Some brands (including GM brands) consist of a silicone inner jacket that surrounds the carbon suppression core. The silicone inner jacket is then surrounded by a vegetable oil based insulating outer shell which mice find particularly appetizing. To help prevent them from making a meal out of your Corvette's ignition system, place some mothballs in and around the engine compartment, but remember to remove them before starting up the car!

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Exhaust System

Mice and other small rodents like to build nests in very small spaces and your Corvette's exhaust tips and mufflers make a perfect home. Use a couple small face cloths and rubber bands to seal off the exhaust tips on your Corvette. Simply cover the opening of each tail pipe with the towel and wrap a rubber band around it.

Car Cover

"Should I cover my Corvette while it's in storage and if so, what's the best type of cover to use?" This is one of the most commonly asked questions when it's time to store your Corvette. The answer depends upon where the car will be stored. If it's stored within a garage or similar shelter, it's not necessary unless the car will be stored for an extended period of time and you would like to keep the dust off of it. If the car is stored outdoors, it is recommended that you keep the car covered. Remember to periodically remove the cover, especially after a soaking rain, so that air has a chance to circulate and properly dry the car and cover.

The type of cover you should use, again depends upon where the car will be stored. If it's stored indoors, a simple cotton based cover is sufficient to keep dust off the car. If it's stored outdoors, you should consider using a Dupont Tyvek or Evolution-3 type weatherproof cover to protect against the elements. These covers can usually be found at either your local automotive parts store, or through mail order companies such as [Mid America Motorworks](#)

Engine Start

Last but not least: "Should I start my Corvette periodically, or leave it alone until it's ready to come out of storage?" This is definitely the most commonly asked question when it comes to automotive storage and there seems to be two opposing sides. One side feels that you should start your car at least once per month and let it run for a good 20 minutes plus until the cooling fans kick in. The other side feels that you should leave the car alone until it's time to remove it from storage. Again, we asked David Scott at GM. "It is always best to start your vehicle once a month if possible." When this is not practical, David offers the following guidelines:

Vehicle Storage of 9 months or less:

- Change oil and filter
- Store vehicle with full fuel tank using winter fuel - available nationwide after Oct. 1 (Higher Vapor Pressure)
- Disconnect negative battery cable

To prepare vehicle for use:

- Change oil and filter (eliminates moisture in crankcase)
- Charge battery
- Connect battery cable

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Vehicle Storage of 9 months to 18 months:

- Change oil and filter
- Store vehicle with full fuel tank and use a fuel stability additive
- Remove the spark plugs and add approximately one (1) ounce of engine oil to each cylinder. Install spark plugs and rotate engine.
- Disconnect negative battery cable

To prepare vehicle for use:

- Change oil and filter (eliminates moisture in crankcase)
- Charge battery
- Connect battery cable

Vehicle Storage of 18 months and longer:

- Change oil and filter
- Remove the spark plugs and add approximately one (1) ounce of engine oil to each cylinder. Install spark plugs and rotate engine.
- Disconnect negative battery cable
- Drain the fuel system

To prepare vehicle for use:

- Change oil and filter (eliminates moisture in crankcase)
- Charge battery
- Connect battery cable
- Remove the spark plugs and add approximately one (1) ounce of engine oil to each cylinder. Install spark plugs and rotate engine.
- Fuel vehicle

The CCR Store



Tote Bag \$20



Visor \$12



Baseball Cap \$15



*Flag 1 for \$13
2 for \$25*



Towel \$10



*T-Shirt \$16 (S-XL)
\$17, \$18 (2X, 3X)*



*Logo on back of
T-shirt*

**Long-Sleeve
T-Shirts
\$20
(all sizes)**



*Polo Shirt \$40
(Order Item)*



*Jackets
\$113
S, M, L, XL (2XL-4XL extra\$)
(Order Item)*

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Richmond"
Window Cling
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**Club Logo Window
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