



50 Years

VETTE
Visions

February 2024

The official Newsletter of the Award Winning

Northern Illinois Corvette Club

Hello Fellow Members!

Well, we have finished the first month of 2024 and we have survived snowstorms and freezing temperatures and that was only January. The good thing is that our Corvettes have been put away and did not have to face the Midwest winter. I only wish that I didn't have to face the bitter cold and the huge amounts of snow and ice.

The great thing is that the club has so many activities planned for this new year.

1. We had the annual bowling party and dinner on February 4.
2. The club has its annual wine tasting party in March. We still need a host(s) for the party.
3. The month of April is busy with the MWR Party in Madison, WI., Perryville Road clean up, and our annual clean up at the Wings & Wheels Museum in Popular Grove, IL.
4. May includes a Smokin' Coops Night, NCCC Convention, the Spring Run to Lake Geneva for lunch and boat ride, and finally the Pecatonica Parade.
5. The month of June includes the Leaf River Parade, NICC/Bachrodt Car Show, Smokin' Coop's Night, and a NICC Low Speed Event Fundraiser.

This was only for the first five months of 2024; and there is a lot more planned for the remainder of the year.

Put on your calendar the first Wednesday of the month and come to the NICC meeting and enjoy the comradery that we have at our monthly



President's
Corner

meeting.

Our club meetings are held at Sam's Ristorante, 6075 E. Riverside Blvd., Rockford on the first Wednesday of the month. The newsletter and website publish the schedule for meetings. I would love to see more members attend the membership meetings to add your voice to our decision making and to bring forth innovative ideas. Members are welcomed to attend the Board meeting. Guests are welcome to attend the social hour and membership meetings. Bring a Corvette enthusiast friend and have an enjoyable time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns for the club.

John M. Stupec

NICC President
Cell 815-997-3906
Email: jmstupec@aol.com



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Love Vettes. Have Fun. Give Back!

February 2024

2024 - Membership and Board Meetings				
Mar	6	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Apr	3	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
May	1	5:00 PM - Board Meeting		
		6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Jun	5	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Jul	3	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Aug	2	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Sep	4	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Oct	2	5:00 PM - Board Meeting		
		6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Nov	6	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	

Unless otherwise posted, all membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at:

Sam's Ristorante
6075 E. Riverside Blvd.
Rockford, IL 61114

*Members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.
Guests are welcome to attend the Social Hour and Membership Meetings.*

If you have other appropriate events of interest that you'd like to see publicized please send the details to the email address below. They will be included as space allows.

editor@nicccorvette.com

2024 - NICC & NCCC Events - [See website for updates & flyers](#)

Feb	4	Sun	3:15 PM	Bowling Party & Dinner	Ken & Cindy
Mar	9 or 16	Sat	TBD	Wine Tasting	Need Host(s)
Apr	6	Sat	10:00 AM	Perryville Road Cleanup	Need Volunteers
	6	Sat	5:00 PM	MWR Banquet	Madison, WI
	13	Sat	10:00 AM	Perryville Road Clean-Up	Meet at Cherry Vale Mall
	27	Sat	10:00 AM	Wings & Wheels Museum Cleanup	Need Volunteers

2024 - Other Events of Interest

May 13-19	National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC) Convention	website
May 16-17	St. Jude Corvette Drive	website
June 6-8	Corvette Adventures, Wisconsin Dells, WI	website
June 21-22	Bloomington Gold, Illinois State University, Normal, IL	website
July 17-20	Black Hills Corvette Classic, South Dakota	website
July 28	Turning Back Time Car Show, Sycamore, IL	website
August 17	Woodward Dream Cruize, Oakland County, MI	website
August ??	Vettes on the River, LeClaire, IA	website
August 22-24	Corvettes at Carlisle, Carlisle, PA	website

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS. LET THEM KNOW THAT NICC MEMBERS PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.

For additions or corrections please contact:
Editor@NICCCorvette.com



Check the Website for updates;
<http://nicccorvette.com>



Important Club Member Dates

Birthdays

Birthdays are good for your health; the more you have, the longer you live.

A FarmersAlmanac.com Philosofact

February

Linda Stimart
Jeanette Hansen
Carolyn Samuelson

March

Traci Hill
Janet Gruhn
Gregory Osen
Kris Bomgarden
Dana Stadel
Nina Morgan
William Naretta
Debbie Schaefer
Joe Hansen
Darlene Weaver

VETTE QUOTES (Valentine's Day Version)

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get-only with what you are expecting to give-which is everything."

Katherine Hepburn

"Love is something external: the aspect may change, but not the essence.."

Vincent van Gogh

"I don't go by the rule book...I lead from the heart, not the head."

Princess Diana

"Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

Franklin P. Jones

"Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired."

Robert Frost

"I would rather share one lifetime with you than face all the ages of this world alone."

J.R.R. Tolkien

"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and is therefore a winged Cupid painted blind."

William Shakespeare

"You don't love someone because they are perfect, you love them in spite of the fact that they're not."

Jodi Picoult

Wedding Anniversaries



February

Jim & Terra Naumowich
Michael & Mindy Reiman

March

Gordon & Mary Ann Akey



**NICC APPRECIATES
ALL MEMBERS!**

SUPPORT THE NICC BY BECOMING AN ACTIVE MEMBER!

Is your Birthday or Anniversary incorrect or missing? Please let us know!
editor@nicccorvette.com

NICC Sunshine Club

Club Members:
If you know of someone who needs to be remembered by our club, via a card or a note, please notify:

Doris Hicks, Sunshine Club Chair,
at
dorishicks78@gmail.com
815-885-2426

NICC Minutes

February 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes - Unapproved

1. Opening and Call to Order:

The NICC Monthly Membership meeting was called to order by John Stupiec at 7:00 p.m. with 16 members present in the meeting room and four on Zoom for a total of 20 members in attendance.

2. List of Officers, Directors, & Committee Chairs:

President: John Stupiec	Sergeant-at-Arms: Mike Lenth
Governor: Dale Samuelson	Editor: Preston Morgan
Secretary: Cindy Starzyk	Social Director: Debbie Schaefer
Treasurer: Louise Gorsch	Quartermaster: Barb Johnson
Membership: Leon Gorsch	Advertising: Ken Starzyk
Parliamentarian: Doris Hicks	Public Relations: Ken Starzyk
Historians: Nancy Bailey & Carolyn Samuelson	Webmaster: Traci Hill
NCM Ambassador: Sherry Putnam	Parade Director: Leon Gorsch
Sunshine Chair: Doris Hicks	Media Director: Traci Hill

3. Introduction of Guests: There were two guests in attendance tonight. Jamin Unger owns a 2005 silver with a supercharger and Kevin Gugliuzza has a 2001 Convertible.

4. Minutes: A motion was made by Sherry Putnam to approve the January, 2024 minutes and it was seconded by Ken Starzyk. The motion was approved.

5. Monthly Reports:

President – John Stupiec: No report.

Governor – Dale Samuelson: See Dale's full report in the February NICC newsletter. The 2024 Convention week in Joplin is May 13-19. There are six people signed up to go. The 2025 NCCC Convention will be in the Wisconsin Dells at Kalahari Resort. The Autocross will be held at Road America and the Drag races at Twin Falls.

Secretary – Cindy Starzyk: No report.

Treasurer – Louise Gorsch: On Zoom. The NICC Budget Cash Flow Table for January, 2024 was distributed by Dale Samuelson. A motion to approve the January Cash Flow Report was made by Barb Johnson and seconded by Mike Lenth. The motion was approved.

Membership – Leon Gorsch: On Zoom. Leon acknowledged our two guests and welcomed them.

Parliamentarian – Doris Hicks: No report.

Historians - Nancy Bailey and Carolyn Samuelson, absent.

NCM Ambassador – Sherry Putnam: No report.

Sunshine Club Chair - Doris Hicks: No report.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Lenth: Mike collected \$2 for name badge fines.

Editor - Preston Morgan: On Zoom. Articles for the February newsletter are due by Friday, February 9th.

Social Director – Debbie Schaefer: No report.

Quartermaster - Barb Johnson: No report.

Advertising – Ken Starzyk: No report.

Public Relations - Ken Starzyk: Ken will report under New Business.

Webmaster – Traci Hill, absent. Cindy Starzyk reported that the previously arranged meeting with the web designer had to be rescheduled. That meeting will be on February 21st.

Parade Director – Leon Gorsch: For the July 4th parade Dan Bomgarden is considering having a rain date available for his picnic which is now scheduled for after the parade. Leon Gorsch is working on the Stillman Valley parade scheduled for September 22nd.

Media Director – Traci Hill, absent.

6. Old Business:

Budget approved.

- b. Website project – Meeting rescheduled.
- c. Activities calendar – If you are interested in hosting a wine tasting please contact Cindy Starzyk.
- d. Runs for the year – If you are interested in hosting a run in the fall, contact Cindy Starzyk.
- e. Bowling Party – Very fun. There were five bowlers, and 14 members dined at Backyard Grill.

7. New Business:

- a. New Website – The previously scheduled meeting with the web designer was postponed.
- b. Spring Run, Lake Geneva – Ken Starzyk - This run will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd. Please sign up before May 1st by contacting Ken at 815 222-0281. Also, please let him know if you need an alternative meal by May 1st. Ken explained that we will do a boat tour at 11:30-2:00 with lunch served onboard. There is a cash bar on the boat. \$67.22 per person will need to be paid to Ken.
- c. Summer Run – Louise Gorsch - Colorado Springs Run – Six cars are signed up. Please let Louise know if you want to go. The deadline is the end of March. Barb Johnson has been disseminating hotel information. Please make your reservations directly if you are planning to go on this run. If you did not receive this information let Barb know.
- d. Fall Run (open)
- e. Club picnic – Cindy Starzyk reported that the club picnic will be held on Sunday, July 14th in Ken & Cindy's hangar at Poplar Grove Airport. Linda & Gene Stimart will co-host this event. More information will be forthcoming.
- f. Updates on Square – Ken Starzyk stated that this issue will be discussed during the meeting with the web designer on February 21st.
- g. NCCC Convention update (May 13thru19) – Six people are signed up.
- h. MWR & NCCC Meetings – Dale Samuelson will attend these and report back to NICC as usual.

8 New Cars: None

9. Collection of Fines: \$2

10. 50/50 Raffle: The amount was \$28.50 and John Stupiec won.

11. Attendance Drawing: \$10.00 – Mindy Reiman won. She was not present. Next month - \$20.00.

Adjournment: 7:29 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Starzyk and seconded by Sherry Putnam. The motion was approved.

Next Club Monthly Meeting:

March 6th, 2024

Social hour 6:00

Member meeting at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Cindy Starzyk

Cindy Starzyk

NICC Governor's Report

Submitted by Dale Samuelson, Governor, NICC



The next Regional and National NCCC meetings will be in February 23rd and 24th in St Louis, MO. Along with routine business, we will be finalizing the Midwest Regional Competition schedule for 2024.

The Midwest Regional Banquet will be held in Madison, WI on Saturday, April 6th. Pre-registrations must be received by March 27th – the cost is \$50 per person and that includes your meal as well as an open bar. Additional information can be found at: https://www.mwregion.com/Flyers/flyer2024_banquet.pdf.

Registration for the 2024 NCCC Convention in Joplin, Missouri opened on February 1st. There will be two main hotels (The Joplin Holiday Inn and the LaQuinta) that share a common parking lot. Additionally, the Comfort Inn and Suites is available and is also a short walk away.

Activities include a welcome party on Tuesday night with live music and the National awards banquet and live music on Wednesday night. Thursday night will feature a block party/car show and a live band in downtown Joplin. The downtown streets will be blocked off just for us! Friday night will be a pool party with live music. An awards ceremony will cap off the week on Saturday morning. The usual array of competitive events will include a rally, a low speed autocross, a poker run, and drag races. The valve cover races will take place Thursday night at the downtown block party. Tours include both an east and west narrated tour of Route 66, a riverboat ride aboard the Branson Belle, a paint and sip session with a Route 66 theme, and more.

Check the NCCC web site for the latest information: <https://www.corvettesnccc.org/2024Convention/Convention2024.php>. Feel free to call me with any questions.

NICC will be co-hosting three fundraisers/autocrosses this year. The dates and locations are: June 29th & 30th in Columbus, WI; August 10th & 11th in McHenry County, IL; and October 19th & 20th in McHenry, IL. All are welcome to participate or spectate and we will definitely need workers (no experience necessary)! These fundraisers help support your club – see you there.

That's all for now,

Dale Samuelson

Governor

Northern Illinois Corvette Club





Are you ready to upgrade your Corvette? This gem is in production.
Check out the details and contact Joe to call dibs!

COMING SOON



2024 Corvette Stingray Coupe 1LT

Exterior Color - Cacti Green

Interior - Trim Leather, Jet Black

Enhanced Safety Features

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Lou Bachrodt Auto Mall
7070 Cherryvale N. Blvd
Rockford, IL 61112

www.Bachrodt.com



MW-465-N02

Midwest Region Party & Awards Banquet

Hosted by Mad City Vettes ~ 2023 Club Champions

Saturday, April 6, 2024 ~Marriot Madison West~ 5:00-Midnight
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive in Middleton, WI 53562 (west side of Madison)

Directions, Map and Hotel Reservation information on next page

Cocktails at 5:00 pm ~ Dinner at 6:30 pm

Complimentary Beverages:

Spotted Cow Draft Beer, White and Red Wines
Soft Drinks, Iced Tea, Water, Coffee

Beverages Available for Purchase:

Mixed Drinks and Bottles of other Beer Brands

Recognitions and Awards Presentations at 7:30

Bar will be open thru Dinner, closed during the Awards Presentations
and then reopen for the rest of the evening with last call at 11:45

Meal Choices

Roasted Chicken Breast with special sauce
Grilled Flat Iron Steak with red wine sauce
Seared Salmon with lemon cream sauce
All meals come with a salad, potato, vegetables, rolls, dessert,
coffee and/or iced tea

Anyone with dietary issues and would like to
request a special meal should contact Joan Thomas

Registration and Payment must be RECEIVED by March 27, 2024

Please register as soon as possible. Contact Joan Thomas with any questions
815-494-5985 or teamthomas525@gmail.com

X—X—X—X—X—PLEASE PRINT—X—X—X—X—X—X—X

Full Name: _____ Club _____ @ \$50.00
Circle Meal Choice: Chicken Steak Salmon

Full Name: _____ Club _____ @ \$50.00
Circle Meal Choice: Chicken Steak Salmon

Party Registration Check should be made payable to Mad City Vettes in the amount of \$ _____

Mail Registration and check to: Mad City Vettes
c/o Joan Thomas
5681 Oak Village Drive
Roscoe, IL 61073-7009

Event Location: Marriot Madison West Hotel
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
Local phone number is 608-831-2000 (Rate ~ \$131.00+ 13.50% tax)

Bowling and Dinner Party

Submitted by Cindy & Ken Starzyk Photos by Cindy Starzyk

Our 2024 bowling and dinner event on Sunday, February 4th was definitely fun!! Park Lanes in Loves Park is very accommodating. We had a great group of Corvette fanatics, five of whom were bowlers. Several of those who chose not to bowl came to watch, mingle, laugh and help with scoring (Thank you Debbie Schaefer!). We played two games. Although we did not award trophies this year, we gave rounds of applause to the following high scorers:

Game one:

- High Score - Cindy
- Most strikes – Ken & Dale (three each)
- Most spares – Cindy

Game two:

- High score – Russ
- Most strikes – Russ
- Most spares - Ken

So Russ Schaefer is the top dog this time with the top score of 160. Actually, Russ was also the winner in 2021. We'll see who the top scorer will be in 2025! Congratulations to all!!

After bowling there were fourteen NICC members for dinner at Backyard Grill & Bar in Loves Park. We heard quite a few accolades regarding the food quality, and Backyard accommodated our club very nicely. This establishment is one of NICC's sponsors. Nearly everyone stayed for a while after eating to socialize more and enjoy each other's company even longer. No doubt, everyone had a truly great time!



Top 3 Rarest Corvettes Ever Made

We've put together three of the absolute rarest Corvettes ever made to make you wish you had a crystal ball. One is even from 1983.

By Thom Taylor for MotorBiscuit at <https://www.motorbiscuit.com/top-3-rarest-corvettes-made/>

America's iconic Corvette sports car is one of the most desirable and collected vehicles of all time. Nothing in the world can compete with its performance achievements, longevity, and panaché. Being so collectible, there are lots of different years, engines, and options that make one more desirable than the next. But in the rarified world of "rarest ever made," these are the top three rarest, most expensive, and most famous of all of the over one million ever produced.

1963 Grand Sport Corvette

1963 Corvette Grand Sport | Bryn Lennon/Getty Images

The Corvette's father, Zora Arkus Duntov, oversaw the construction of the 1963 Grand Sport to compete on the international stage with the likes of Ferrari and Ford's Cobra. GM management shut it down after building only five. Automakers were supposed to honor the AMA ban on Big Three-sanctioned racing.

But GM took many ideas from the GS it later incorporated into



Image: Preston Morgan

other race programs and performance vehicles alike. Amazingly, all five of the GS sports cars survive today. The few times they have come up for auction they bid millions of dollars, indicating how valuable and important they are.

Editor's Note: One of the five surviving 1963 Grand Sport is located at the Revs Institute in Naples, Florida. With Serial Number 004, this is my favorite exhibit at the Revs. Of course there are 111 other fantastic cars but I am prejudiced with this being the only Corvette housed at the museum.



Image: Bryn Lennon/Getty Images

1969 ZL1 Corvette

Is there anything rarer than the Grand Sport? Yes. The production of its 1969 ZL1 amounted to only two examples. These were meant to raise the stakes at the SCCA Canadian-American Challenge Cup Series. The lightweight aluminum 427 ci engines were advertised at only 430 hp. This was to slide under the corporate radar. But in reality, it was more like 560 hp to 585 hp. As a \$3,010 option, it tipped the price of the ZL1 Corvette to \$10,771.

The alloy engine came in at 100 lbs less than the iron 427. That was an incredible advantage when combined with 560+ hp. Quarter-mile times were 11.2 seconds, on crappy nylon ply tires. Hagerty puts a ZL1's value at over \$1 million today. With the recent prices seen at auctions lately, we think that number is very low.



Image: GM

1983 Corvette

Many collectors take a pass on the fourth-gen Corvettes, and 1983 models are C4 models. We say “models,” but there was actually only one ever built. And you can see it at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. It really wasn’t a production model at all, but actually a pilot model. And that’s close enough for our purposes here.

California changed its emissions requirements right before C4 production was to start. And there was no time to incorporate the changes. So Chevrolet took a pass on building 1983 models entirely. The first production C4s were 1984 models.



Image: GM

The reason this Corvette even exists is that it was used as an assembly development car for the new Corvette assembly plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky. It remained in its front lobby for over a decade. GM then donated it to the new museum upon its opening in 1994. So when it comes to rare production Corvettes, while this looks like a plain vanilla C4, it may be the ultimate one.

These 10 Sports Cars Are Secretly Corvettes

By Nathan Lowman for HotCars at <https://www.hotcars.com/sports-cars-are-secretly-corvettes/#bertone-mantide>

From GM sister brand Cadillac to exotic Italian design houses, the Corvette has been the basis for many great supercars across the world.

The Chevy Corvette itself launched in 1953 and has become America's favorite sports car over eight generations. A Corvette can be expected to be rear-wheel drive, equipped with a V8, and be sold at an affordable price point compared to the Ferrari's and Lamborghini's it competes against.



Image: Pinterest

Want to know whose exotic sports cars are a little more homegrown than you thought? Some may hide it, and some may openly admit it, but we know what lies beneath the fancy paint and aerodynamic body panels. Here are ten sports cars based on the Chevrolet Corvette!

10 Cadillac XLR

The Cadillac XLR was released by Cadillac to fill the long-lasting vacancy when the Allante was canceled in 1993. Cadillac took the C6 Corvette chassis and swapped the LS engine for their own Northstar V8 and put their own badge on it. The XLR was even built in the same factory in Kentucky. Cadillac hoped to attract buyers who might be a bit more conservative than Corvette buyers or desired more options and luxury. Sadly, the company axed the XLR in 2009 due to the failing economy and the market moving towards more practical vehicles.



Image: Cadillac

Do not be fooled, Cadillac wasn't afraid to give the XLR a bit of performance. It equipped it with a 4.6L Northstar with a supercharger, stiffened the suspension, and added some exterior goodies to make it more akin to its Corvette brother. The XLR-V made an impressive 443 horsepower, which was nothing to scoff at.

9 Scaglietti Corvette

This one might seem obvious because Corvette is in the name, but the outer appearance fooled many into thinking this car was built in Italy, not Bowling Green. This was actually Carroll Shelby's first attempt at making a performance car after he retired from professional driving. He sent three bare 1959 Corvettes to Italian design-house Scaglietti, and this was the finished product.

GM weren't fans of the finished product and didn't see much point, so they turned Shelby away.

Carroll Shelby went on to Ford and the rest is history, and we're sure GM is still regretting turning him away. We still remember this beautiful creation though, and it's the first time the Corvette was used as the base for something more exotic. With only three made, this is one of Shelby's rarest creations.



Image: Wikimedia Commons

8 Callaway Super Speedster

Callaway is an American tuning house that primarily works with the Corvette, even tuning a few for Chevy to sell in dealerships. Models were typically Corvette's with added boost, stiffened suspension, or improved aerodynamics. Callaway's greatest creation may have been the Super Speedster, a C4-based supercar that found fame in Le Mans Racing.

Callaway kept the Lotus-tuned LT5, an LT1-based block with DOHC and a tune that helped the engine make 375 horsepower. This wasn't enough power though, so Callaway added turbos and brought the total power to 775 horsepower, which is ridiculous by even modern standards. The only thing harder than driving one would be finding one; total production numbers were only two.



Image: Supercars

7 DDR Motorsport GT8

DDR is an American company that specializes in making kit-car supercars. Buyers will buy their kit which usually includes a new body and chassis. The cars typically keep the motor and suspension from the donor car. The DDR GT8 makes use of the C5 Corvette as a donor car, keeping the LS engine and the suspension. The LS is mounted in the middle, giving the Corvette a more exotic look. Interestingly the car uses a Porsche transaxle since the engine is moved and no longer requires the Corvette's driveline.



Image: Bring A Trailer

You can have your very own kit for \$18,995 and a C5 donor car. Owners typically quote assembly time at about 600 hours, but it all depends on your skill level or the mechanic you use. There's no doubt there's plenty of fun to be had with the DDR GT8.

6 Callaway IVM C12

Another Callaway creation, this time using the C5 as its base. Callaway paired up with German tuning house IVM to make this beast. The C12 managed to make a class pole position at the 2001 Le Mans. Unfortunately, the C12 didn't finish, only making it to lap 92 before the car retired. The C12 made use of a house-tuned 5.7L V8 good for about 500 horsepower.



Image: Callaway

Production numbers were a bit higher than the Super Speedster, coming in at a whopping 20 cars. Callaway claims the cars should sell for about \$200,000, but prices seem to be at about half of that on Bring A Trailer. It might be hard to convince anyone to drop the price of a house on a car based on the Corvette, but if you have \$200,000 burning a hole in your pocket, this piece of Le Mans history might be for you.

5 Bertone Ramarro

Bertone is a world-renowned Italian design house responsible for styling legendary cars like the Lamborghini Miura, Lamborghini Jarama, and Abarth 131. In the 1980s Bertone CEO Nuccio Bertone wanted to make a better name for the company in the United States. Before this point Bertone's emblem would only appear as a small badge or on text inside the car, not taking priority of the companies they designed for. Bertone decided to base their new supercar on the C4 Corvette.



Image: Wikipedia Commons

Bertone kept the stock engine from a 1985 Corvette other than a few changes to the cooling system and kept the four-speed automatic transmission. Inside the car got all new custom interior, no more cheap plastic. The body panels were modified with aerodynamics in mind and heavily resembled their 70s designs for Lamborghini. Only one car was ever made and was used as a display piece at the LA auto show, so don't plan on making a Bertone Ramarro an addition to your garage unless you're swimming in gold like Scrooge McDuck. Ramarro means "green lizard" in Italian, in case you were wondering.

4 Kellison J6 Panther

The Kellison J6 Panther was a Korean War vet's dream ride, a melting pot of the best muscle car parts crammed into a C1 Corvette chassis. Drivetrains can be ripped from Fords or Chevy's, but the body is still Corvette. Some custom fiberglass work and exterior parts stolen from Dodge, Studebaker, and Ford—and you have the J6. Customers could use whatever motor and transmission they wanted, but the one shown uses a 306 cubic inch Chevy-built V8 and a Muncie 4-Speed.



Image: Bring A Trailer

Chances are if you see one of these drive by, you wouldn't guess it's a Corvette, but maybe something more Italian or English. This is one of the many cars with European styling but a big American V8. It might not be the most iconic American V8-powered sports car, but it's still an American V8-powered sports car all the same.

3 Bill Thomas Cheetah

Maybe you like the idea of the Shelby Cobra but aren't a big fan of Ford...the Bill Thomas Cheetah is your answer. Bill Thomas was an American hot rod-der who modified GM's cars for NHRA and SCCA use. The Cheetah was his answer to the Cobra, which was obliterating the Corvette in sports car racing during the 1960s.



Image: Bring A Trailer

So what made the Cheetah different from the Corvette? Well to be honest...not much. The car had more aerodynamic body panels, tightened suspension, and a Chevy V8 bored out to 6.2L. The Cheetah never found the same success as the Shelby Cobra though, and never won any notable races. Today Cheetahs can be found at historical races or as kit cars though, and a lot cheaper than anything with the name "Shelby" on it.

2 Callaway Sledgehammer

The last Callaway creation on this list is certainly not the least, with the Callaway Sledgehammer topping out 255mph! Callaway created the Sledgehammer with only one goal in mind: maximum velocity. The Sledgehammer was based on the C4 Corvette chassis and drivetrain with quite a few tweaks. The engine for starts was tuned by Lingenfelter, equipped with twin-turbos, an inter-cooler, and upgraded fuel injection.



Credit: Bring A Trailer

Want your own Callaway Sledgehammer? Well, you better find \$500,000. The one shown in the pictures above sold for a cool half-million on Bring a Trailer. Good luck finding one though, only one is known to exist.

1 Bertone Mantide

Bertone didn't stop with the "Green Lizard," taking another stab at the Corvette in 2009. This time Bertone replaced all the body panels and wheels with carbon fiber ones, dropping nearly 200lbs from the original Lamborghini killing C6 ZR-1 that the Mantide was based on. The Mantide maintained the stock LS9 motor good for 638 horsepower.



Credit: Pinterest

Only one of these were ever made after plans to make 10 fell through. The original owner is yet to sell, so no one knows what the car is worth...unless you're playing a Forza Motorsport; then it's an affordable \$1,000,000. The Mantide had a claim to fame as the popular racing game on the X-Box 360, putting it on the radar of video game and car fans alike. We hope to see it again as Forza Motorsport just recently announced a return!

Is it a Cord? Is it a Corvette? Or is Marty Martino's latest creation, the CordVette, the best of both cars?

By Daniel Strohl for Hemmings at <https://www.hemmings.com/stories/car-culture/classics/is-it-a-cord-is-it-a-corvette-or-is-marty-martinos-latest-creation-the-cordvette-the-best-of-both-cars> 05/26/2022

For a vehicle that only lasted a couple years on the market, Gordon Buehrig's Cord 810 and 812 have sure had an outsize influence on car designers and enthusiasts ever since. David North, Stan Wilen, and Bill Mitchell packed the Oldsmobile Toronado with all sorts of design elements paying homage to the Toronado's front-wheel-drive predecessor. Multiple customizers through the Fifties tried their hand at making a sports car out of the coffin-nose Cord. And on at least three occasions, entrepreneurs have resurrected or attempted to resurrect the Cord. So Marty Martino's really just following in a grand tradition by building a modern Cord out of the bones of a fifth-generation Corvette.



Image: Hemmings

"I never thought of this project as a 'sport custom' in the traditional way, but being that it's a one-off Cord-inspired design, I now see it as a continuation of the genre," Marty said after reading our recent story on Fifties-era sport-custom Cords.

The roots of the project date back to the late Eighties, when Automobile Quarterly ran a design contest asking for its readers to envision the Cord 810, Tucker 48, or Packard Caribbean as they would have appeared in 1990. *"What really made the contest exciting to me was that it was to be judged by Alex Tremulis, Frank Hershey, Dick Teague, Bill Mitchell, Chuck Jordan, Jack Telnack, and Dave Holls, many of my automotive heroes!"* Marty said.

Marty selected the 810, and while the phone-dial wheels, wrap-around indent, and jellybean taillamps all reflect the era in which he re-envisioned the Cord, the coupe managed to blend the original's subtly stepped fastback, haunches, hidden headlamps in winglike fenders, and speed line grille in with contemporary shape and proportions. The entry made it into print as one of four runner-up designs that the judges chose. Not bad, Marty thought, considering *"most of the entrants were accomplished illustrator/designers, students at Art Center, and so on,"* he said.



The rendering got filed away until about a decade ago, when Marty's younger brother, Robert, expressed an interest in building a modern Cord using a Corvette as the donor car. Robert, according to Marty, *"had long held 1936 and 1937 Cords as his favorite prewar car design... and considers the Cord Sportsman the Corvette of its day."*

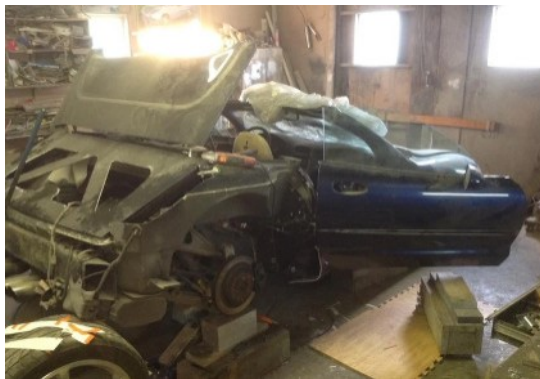
They figured the fifth-generation Corvette would work best for this project given that Marty had already built the PsyClone Motorama tribute car from a C5 and that both the C5 and the Cord had hideaway headlamps. Robert wanted a convertible, so the brothers found a profile shot of a C5 Corvette, laid it on a lightbox, then drafted the CordVette's design on a blank piece of paper above the profile shot using many of the same elements and lines that Marty had incorporated into his Automobile Quarterly rendering. Marty also did a little Bondo sculpting on a 1/25-scale model of a C5 to see his alterations in three dimensions.



"I sketched what I could change without harming the integrity of the 'Vette and without changing its wheel-base, door openings, top, windows, and structural integrity," he said. "It's the same method I used to design the PsyClone."

Robert tacked the latter sketch to his office wall before finally deciding to take the plunge a few years later. He started by locating a C5 convertible with a manual transmission and tan interior, two of the items that would remain with the car through the conversion. He then spent another few years driving the convertible and fixing minor issues on it before telling Marty in late fall 2019 that the time had come to cut it up.

When Marty started work on it in January 2020, stripping the car to its basic structure, he estimated that the project wouldn't take more than a year. *"However, in March of 2020, I casually mentioned 'wouldn't it be wicked with suicide doors?'"* Marty said. After all, a close look at his Automobile Quarterly rendering shows rear-hinged doors, just as the 810 Sportsman had. *"Oops. Well, that turned into an engineering nightmare. Way more restrictions and challenges than I would have ever guessed. I probably have as much time in just suiciding the doors as I have in sculpting the rest of the body."*



With the doors figured out, Marty then started to reshape the rear of the car before he progressed toward the front. He used a couple of different methods for creating the panels, he said. About half of the panels resulted from his foam sculpture method, in which he carved the shape of the fenders from blocks of foam, then sealed them to use for creating molds from which the actual fiberglass panels could be pulled. The others, he said, *"were cast from wood, Bondo, and Masonite molds made with out a male form - only a sketch and dimensions - then assembled in reverse."* He then joined the fiberglass panels to the C5's structure, preserving not just the hideaway headlamps but also the convertible top.

"This is shot after the doors were hung and the rear shaping roughed in," Marty said. "Robert is test driving as it hasn't been started for several months at this point."

More than two years after starting the project, Marty said he's *"seeing the light at the end of the tunnel,"* with all of the fiberglass panels created and mounted. He's currently working on extending the door wiring, and he still needs to paint it, but he said he and Robert are both pleased with how the design has evolved from that lightbox sketch and from that long-ago design contest entry.



From the Editor

NICC Editor: Preston Morgan

Valentine's Day is February 14. If you forget, just go to any retail store and you will be immediately reminded as soon as you walk in the door. But where did this special day come from? How did it become something that generates revenue for retail stores, restaurants, flower shops, bakeries, supermarkets, and online purveyors of goods? The story below casts some light on the beginnings of Valentines Day, both the good and bad. Now that I am fully "Valentized", it's time to go buy Nina a card and a cow (yes, there is a backstory to the cow). Happy Valentines Day to all NICC members!



History of Valentine's Day

By History.com Editors at <https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the meaning and history of Valentine's Day, from the ancient Roman ritual of Lupercalia that welcomed spring to the card-giving customs of Victorian England.



Image: Ian Gavan/Getty Images for ASDA

The Legend of St. Valentine

Where did Valentine's Day originate from? The history of the holiday—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?



Image: Fototeca Gilardi/Getty Images

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Origins of Valentine's Day: A Pagan Festival in February

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Valentine's Day Meaning: A Day of Romance and Love

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed "un-Christian"—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Foules," writing, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."



Image: K.J. Historical/Corbis/Getty Images

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

Who Is Cupid?

Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine's Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros. Accounts of his birth vary; some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus; others, of Aphrodite and Ares; still others suggest he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus (who would have been both his father and grandfather).

According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn't until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he'd become on Valentine's Day cards.

Typical Valentine's Day Greetings and Gifts

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." To-day, according to Hallmark, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas).

5 Facts about Valentine's Day

- The first Valentine's Day celebration took place in France. ...
- About 25% of pet owners give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets. ...
- 8 billion conversation hearts are manufactured each year. ...
- The chocolate box has been around for more than 150 years. ...
- The first valentine was sent from prison.



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The club provides **Corvette** information and encourages others to participate in its ownership and enjoyment by holding meetings, events (concours, parades, races, rallies, runs, shows) and socials.

Through the magnetism of the **Corvette**, the club raises funds and supports various local and national non-profit organizations.

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