



50 Years

VETTE  
Visions

May 2024

The official Newsletter of the Award Winning

Northern Illinois Corvette Club

*Hello Fellow Members!*

We just had our May meeting and reviewed and updated the scheduled activities for 2024. We have so many activities in this year's schedule that there is something for everybody. These activities give you the opportunity to get involved and enjoy your time with other club members. Go to the website 2024 Event Calendar and pick out the activities you want to do or get involved in. We always need volunteers to participate in the planning and developing of activities such as:

1. Wine tasting party
2. Perryville road clean up
3. Wings & Wheels Museum clean-up
4. Smokin Coops night
5. NCCC Convention week
6. Spring run (Lake Geneva lunch and boat ride)
7. Pecatonica Parade
8. NICC /Bachrodt Car Show
9. NICC Low speed event
10. Cars & Coffee Car Show

The attendance at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was much better than April's meeting. It's great when we have more NICC members present. That's when ideas come together and plans materialize for new activities and projects. The club is always ready for activities and projects. Put on your calendar the first Wednesday of



President's  
Corner

the month and come to the NICC meeting and enjoy the time that we have at our monthly meetings.

Our club meetings are held at Sam's Ristorante, Rockford on the first Wednesday of the month. The newsletter and website publishes the schedule for meetings. I would enjoy seeing 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. Stupek**

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



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*Love Vettes. Have Fun. Give Back!*

May 2024

2024 - Membership and Board Meetings				
<b>Jun</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - Meeting
<b>Jul</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - Meeting
<b>Aug</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - Meeting
<b>Sep</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - Meeting
<b>Oct</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	- Board Meeting	
		<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - Meeting
<b>Nov</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - Meeting
<b>Dec</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	- Board Meeting	
		<b>6:00 PM</b>	- Social Hour	<b>7:00 PM</b> - 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](mailto:editor@nicccorvette.com)

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

<b>May</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Smokin Coop BBQ Pit</b>	<b>Belvidere, IL</b>
	<b>22</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>9:10 AM</b>	<b>Spring Run to Lake Geneva, WI</b>	<b>Hosts: Ken &amp; Cindy</b>
	25-27	Sa-Mo	8:30 AM	MWR Autocross	Rantoul, IL
	<b>27</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Pecatonica Parade</b>	<b>Pecatonica, IL</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>NICC/Bachrodt Car Show</b>	<b>Need Volunteers</b>
	15-16	Sa-Su	8:30 AM	MWR Autocross	Rantoul, IL
	<b>17</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Smokin Coop BBQ Pit</b>	<b>Belvidere, IL</b>

#### 2024 - Other Events of Interest

May 13-19	National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC) Convention	<a href="#">website</a>
May 16	Cruise Nights, 6401 N. Second St., Loves Park	5:00PM-8:00PM
May 16-17	St. Jude Corvette Drive	<a href="#">website</a>
June 6-8	Corvette Adventures, Wisconsin Dells, WI	<a href="#">website</a>
June 21-22	Bloomington Gold, Illinois State University, Normal, IL	<a href="#">website</a>
July 17-20	Black Hills Corvette Classic, South Dakota	<a href="#">website</a>
July 28	Turning Back Time Car Show, Sycamore, IL	<a href="#">website</a>
August 17	Woodward Dream Cruise, Oakland County, MI	<a href="#">website</a>
August 24	Vettes on the River, LeClaire, IA	<a href="#">website</a>

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

For additions or corrections please contact:  
[Editor@NICCCorvette.com](mailto: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

#### May

Doris Hicks

#### June

Lynn Foecking  
Mary Gugliuzza  
Corvette 06-30-53



### ***Wedding Anniversaries***



#### May

Tom & Micki Stern

#### June

Russ & Julie Moore  
Lee & Lynn Foecking  
Don & Barb Johnson  
Joe & Jeanette Hansen  
Ken & Cindy Starzyk  
Gordon & Laun Tomohlen

### ***VETTE QUOTES (Mother's Day Edition)***

"When you are looking at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know."

*Charley Bennetto*

"Motherhood is tough. If you just want a wonderful little creature to love, you can get a puppy."

*Barbara Walters*

"Mothers are like glue. Even when you can't see them, they're still holding the family together."

*Susan Gale*

"My mother always used to say, the older you get, the better you get. Unless you're a banana."

*Betty White*

"Motherhood is the only thing in my life that I've really known for sure is something I wanted to do."

*Cynthia Nixon*

"If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."

*Jacqueline Kennedy Onasis*

"Having kids — the responsibility of rearing good, kind, ethical, responsible human beings — is the biggest job anyone can embark on."

*Maria Shriver*



***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](mailto: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](mailto:dorishicks78@gmail.com)  
815-885-2426

## NICC Minutes

May 1, 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 22 members present in the meeting room and two on Zoom for a total of 24 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:** Our guest tonight was Steve S. He owns a silver, 2007 Vette.

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

### **5. Monthly Reports:**

**President** – John Stupiec: No report.

**Governor** – Dale Samuelson: The NCCC Convention has 260-270 people registered. NICC needs to form a small committee soon for the planning of our part in the 2025 Convention. We can select our own music, or Joan Thomas will refer us to someone. We will host and plan a party on the Tuesday evening of the 2025 convention. One theme idea for this could be a 1960's dance with decorations and costumes. The Car Show line item title is actually "Charities". Volunteers for the Autocross Fundraisers can sign up at the June meeting.

**Secretary** – Cindy Starzyk: No report.

**Treasurer** – Louise Gorsch: The NICC Budget Cash Flow Table for April, 2024 was distributed by Louise. The April balance was \$23,540.33. Registrations for the June 15<sup>th</sup> car show are coming in. A motion to approve the April Cash Flow Report was made by Barb Johnson and seconded by Ken Starzyk. The motion was approved.

**Membership** – Leon Gorsch: The membership count remains the same at 71.

**Parliamentarian** – Doris Hicks, absent.

**Historians** - Nancy Bailey and Carolyn Samuelson, absent.

**NCM Ambassador** – Sherry Putnam: No report.

**Sunshine Club Chair** - Doris Hicks, absent.

**Sergeant-at-Arms** – Mike Lenth: Mike collected \$1 for name badge fines.

**Editor** - Preston Morgan, Absent - Articles for the May newsletter are due by Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Social Director** – Debbie Schaefer, absent.

**Quartermaster** - Barb Johnson: No report.

**Advertising** – Ken Starzyk: Women's and men's event t-shirts are \$25. Long sleeved unisex are \$28. Traci stated that she is working on the customization (names on shirts) costs. The shirts are pre-shrunk but may shrink more. Ken showed samples of large sizes.

**Public Relations** - Ken Starzyk: A Cars & Coffee event in Rockford is this Saturday. This is not the main one NICC is participating in however some members are going to it.

**Webmaster** – Traci Hill: Traci will report under New Business.

**Parade Director** – Leon Gorsch: Following are the parades Leon has for NICC to participate in:

Winnebago parade (July 4<sup>th</sup>) after which we will picnic at Dan's and Kris' place.

Pecatonica parade (May 27<sup>th</sup>).

Stillman Valley parade (September 22<sup>nd</sup>).

Leon discussed staging, line-up, times, etc. More information and details will be forthcoming. We will be allowed to throw candy. We may have 14 cars attending the Roscoe Methodist Car Show on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The size of their Corvette Corral will be increased for us.

**Media Director** – Traci Hill: Traci is waiting for the debit card payment system to be set up which will be used for the website host payments. Continue to order your NICC event t-shirts directly from Embroid This on Facebook or the NICC website. Traci drove the Principal of the school to the Golden Apple Banquet in her Corvette. Everyone raved about how classy it was. NICC will benefit from the presence of the news media when we drive the principal and the winners to the banquet in 2025.

**6. Old Business:**

- a. Spring Perryville Rd. Cleanup (4/13/24) – We had great weather and finished very quickly. Lunch was at Old Chicago.
- b. Wings & Wheels Museum Clean-up (4/17/24) – As usual this was a great success and extremely helpful to this not-for-profit organization. We lunched at The Firehouse Pub in Roscoe.

**7. New Business:**

- a. New Website – discussed under Media Director.
- b. Spring Run (May 22) – There are 35 people signed up for the spring run to Lake Geneva. We will start at the Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum. On the way back we will stop in Sharon, WI for ice cream at Myrt's. More details will be blasted. You will be given directions and a walkie-talkie for the run.
- c. Summer Run, Colorado Springs - The group of eleven people who have signed up met tonight to go over details. Louise will email everyone regarding any changes and/or confirmations.
- d. Fall Run (open) – No members indicated interest in doing a run to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The National Corvette Museum, so anyone who would like to create any kind of a run to any destination is welcome to do so. Please contact John Stupek if you would like to organize a run at 815 997-3906.
- e. Smokin' Coops Night (May 6<sup>th</sup>) - Just show up at 5:30.
- f. NCCC Convention (May 13-19) – Three cars are going.
- g. Club picnic (July 14, 3 pm) – Contact Linda Stimart with questions or if you'd like to sign up at 815 298-8415. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- h. Wine Tasting Party (Host needed).
- i. Miracle Mile Car Show (May 25<sup>th</sup>) Don Carter Lanes. Pass out NICC Car Show flyers. Non-sanctioned.
- j. Pecatonica Parade (May 27<sup>th</sup>).
- k. NICC/Bachrodt Car Show (June 15<sup>th</sup>) a volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around.
- l. Need volunteers for MWR events (June 29/30, August 10/11, October 19/20).

**8 New Cars:** None.

**9. Collection of Fines:** \$1

**10. 50/50 Raffle:** The amount was \$37.50 and Lisa Thumme won!

**11. Attendance Drawing:** \$10.00 – Nancy Bailey won! Next month - \$10.00.

**Adjournment:** 7:50 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Starzyk and seconded by Sherry Putnam. The motion was approved.

**Next Club Monthly Meeting:**  
**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 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

Carolyn and I attended The Midwest Regional Banquet held in Madison, WI on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a very nice time with an open bar, music, and dancing. 2023 competitors and workers were honored. Congratulations to all, especially our group from NICC.



The 2024 NCCC Convention in Joplin, MO is just around the corner and at least a few NICC members are planning to attend. Look forward to reports at the next club meeting.

The 2025 NCCC Convention will be held in the Wisconsin Dells August 17 through August 22 and hosted by the clubs of the Midwest Region (that's us). NICC has volunteered to host a party. Think about some ideas for a theme, ie 60s night, country music night, etc. We'll be forming a committee to spearhead the effort – let me know if you'd like to be a part of the group. See more details here: [Convention 2025 \(mwregion.com\)](https://www.mwregion.com/convention-2025).

Don't forget our NICC fundraiser/autocrosses to be held June 29/30 in Columbus, WI, August 10/11 in McHenry County, and October 19/20 in McHenry County. We will need workers for each of these (no experience needed).

That's all for now,

***Dale Samuelson***

Governor

Northern Illinois Corvette Club





## 2024 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray



- Convertible
- Ceramic Matrix Gray Metallic Exterior
- Custom Interior Combination Jet Black w/Adrenaline Red Seats
- 3LT Trim Level
- MSRP \$106,410

### **NICC ONLY PRICING - \$500 DISCOUNT**

Call or text Commercial Manager, Joe K Luy, at (815) 238-4429 for all the details on incoming options or to custom order your new Corvette today.

Lou Backrodt Auto Mall  
7070 Cherryvale N. Blvd  
Rockford, IL 6112





**NICC's Smokin Coop Night!!**  
**Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 5:30 pm**

**~Just show up - no sign-up~**

**Drive your Corvette to Smokin Coop BBQ Pit and enjoy camaraderie and great food!**

**SMOKIN COOP BBQ PIT**  
**2022 US-20 BUS**  
**Belvidere, IL**





**NICC Spring Run to Lake Geneva**  
**(Lunch on the Tour Boat)**

Wednesday, May 22

**Costs:**

**Single \$67.22**

**Couple \$134.44**

**Please make checks payable to Ken Starzyk by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Parking will cost \$8.00 in town.**

**9:10** - Meet at Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum  
5151 Orth Rd., Poplar Grove, IL.  
to be assigned walkie-talkies.

**9:30** – Leave for Lake Geneva.

**11:00** - We will meet at the tour boat to check in.

**11:15** - Boarding will begin.



**Cruise Nights Hosted by**  
**Gentlemen Car Club**





## Take Flight at Rantoul

### Midwest Region Fundraiser Autocross

## 21 Low Speed Events



<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 25, 2024</b>	<b>7 Low Speeds</b>	<b>MW-315-001-007</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 26, 2024</b>	<b>7 Low Speeds</b>	<b>MW-120-001-007</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 27, 2024</b>	<b>7 Low Speeds</b>	<b>MW-120-008-014</b>

**Location:** Rantoul Aviation Center, 772 E Perimeter Rd, Rantoul, IL (address works with Bing maps directions, but most other GPS you may have to continue further south on Perimeter Rd to arrive at the runway entrance)

**Entry Fees:** Pre-Registered: \$175 for all 3 days, \$140 for any 2 days, \$70 for any 1 day

[Click here for ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION](#) **Payment must be received by May 18 to obtain a discount.**

Day of Event: \$210 for all 3 days, \$160 for any 2 days, \$80 for any 1 day, or \$15/event

**Chairperson:** Bill Docherty email: mwr045@gmail.com

**Cell:** 708-710-1138

All times are Central Daylight time:

	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>
Registration:	8:30 AM to 9:15 AM	8:30 AM to 9:00 AM	8:00 AM to 8:30 AM
Tech:	8:30 AM to 9:15 AM	8:30 AM to 9:00 AM	8:00 AM to 8:30 AM
Drivers Meeting:	9:30 AM	9:15 AM	9:00 AM
First Car Out:	After drivers meeting	After drivers meeting	After drivers meeting

### Other event Info:

**NEW HOTEL:** A block of rooms has been reserved at Illini Inn & Suites, See page 2 for details.

There will be a lunch break given on Sat. & Sun. for entrants to leave the site.

This event is voluntary, all participants come at their own risk. NCCC insurance does not cover non-NCCC members.

COVID 19 guidelines (if any) must be followed and failure to comply could result in disqualification and ejection.

Midwest Region members will be asked to work.

Event pricing has been reduced in lieu of awards.

Drivers must show valid driver's license.

Passengers will be allowed per NCCC rulebook

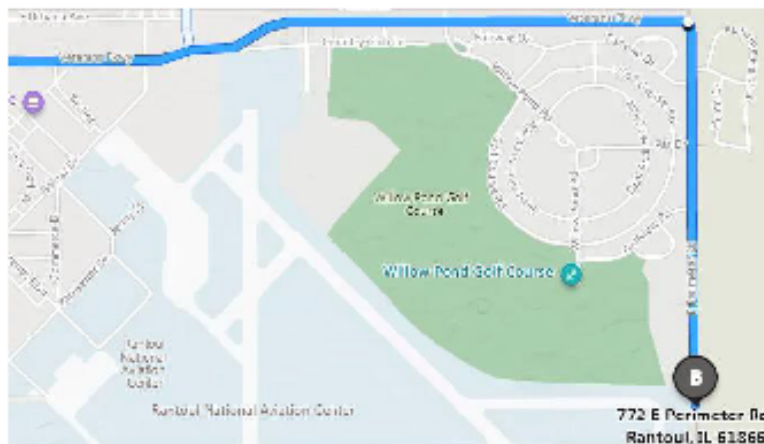
Drivers requesting numbers other than those assigned by Registration will be charged per MWR Rules.

Overnight car trailer parking allowed at your own risk. RV overnight not allowed at event site.

Closed exhaust, 103db limit

No alcohol on premises.

Pets must be on a leash.





# Eggsperts Breakfast and Lunch Cafe Chef's Choice II



## Double NCCC CORVETTE SHOW

Date: Sunday, June 2, 2024



NCCC Sanction # MW-351-002 and MW-351-003

### LOCATION

**Eggsperts Breakfast & Lunch Cafe**  
9218 W. 159th St., Orland Park, IL. 60462



Event Fees: Early registration discounted price - \$25  
after 5/31/2024 and Day-of-show registration - \$30  
Show #1 :Stock, Modified and Custom classes  
Show #2 : Best of Show (Chef's Choice award)

Registration: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. CT  
Tech: 9:00a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CT  
Driver's Meeting -10:30a.m. CT  
Show ends by 1:30pm CT

NCCC Members must present current Membership Cards the day of the event  
(All entrants must sign the insurance waiver form) Food will be available on-site

**Entrants receive 15% discount on all food purchases**

Mail Pre-Registration payment to Windy City Corvettes, P.O. Box 353, Orland Park, IL 60462-0353

Governor	Chairpersons	Eggsperts Cafe
Dave Heinemann	Larry Pagliaro	708-737-7867
708-638-0199	708-341-7852	www.eggspertscafe.com
<a href="mailto:windyz06@aol.com">windyz06@aol.com</a>	ShadowLAP@icloud.com	
	Susan Pagliaro	
	708-305-0072	
	<a href="mailto:srpagliaro@icloud.com">srpagliaro@icloud.com</a>	

Pre-Show Registration Form on Page 2:

# LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES & VETERANS

**\$500  
CASH  
PRIZE**



## PRE-REGISTER

**\$15**

- PRE-REGISTER BY JUNE 10TH
- DASH PLAQUES & SWAG FOR THE 1ST 50 REGISTERED
- ENTRY & SNACKS @ 8:30 AM

## DAY OF

**\$20**

- AWARDS FOR TOP 10
- STAGING @ 9 AM
- JUDGING BEGINS AT NOON

## SPECTATORS

**FREE**

- FOOD TRUCKS
- 50/50 RAFFLE
- MUSIC & PRIZES
- VOTE FOR FAN FAVORITE

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH 10 'TIL 2

MORE DETAILS AT [NICCCORVETTE.COM](http://NICCCORVETTE.COM)

LOU BACHRODT





# PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 10TH, 2024

Contact Ken Starzyk for more info. (815) 222-0281



Make Checks Payable To:  
Northern Illinois Corvette Club  
Pre-Register \$15 or Day Of \$20

Mail Registration To:  
Northern Illinois Corvette Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2004 Loves Park, IL 61130

**NAME:**

**PHONE #:**

**EMAIL:**

**MAKE/MODEL/YEAR:**

# PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 10TH, 2024

Contact Ken Starzyk for more info. (815) 222-0281



Make Checks Payable To:  
Northern Illinois Corvette Club  
Pre-Register \$15 or Day Of \$20

Mail Registration To:  
Northern Illinois Corvette Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2004 Loves Park, IL 61130

**NAME:**

**PHONE #:**

**EMAIL:**

**MAKE/MODEL/YEAR:**



# Fly on the Rantoul Runway

Saturday June 15<sup>TH</sup> & Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Location:** Rantoul Aviation Center, 772 E Perimeter Rd, Rantoul, IL  
(address works with Bing maps directions, but most other GPS you may have to continue further south on Perimeter Rd to arrive at the runway entrance)

**Pre-registration (NCCC Members only):** Payment must be received by June 8<sup>th</sup> to obtain discount

Full Weekend Value Package \$110

Single day 6/15 or 6/16 \$70

[Click here for ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION](#)

Please make check payable to: **Northern Rays Ltd.**

Send to: Linda Fairlamb, 407 N Ridgeland, Elmhurst, IL 60126

## Day of Event Fees:

Full Weekend Value Package \$140

Single day 6/15 or 6/16 \$80

## Chairpersons:

MW135 Linda Fairlamb

MW351 Ken Linderborg

(cell) 312 513-0142 [ladvracer98@comcast.net](mailto:ladvracer98@comcast.net)

(cell) 708 828-5922 [klinderborg@ameritech.net](mailto:klinderborg@ameritech.net)

## Host Clubs:

Northern Rays Corvette Club

MW-135

Windy City Corvette Club

MW-351

Chicago Crossroads Corvette Club

MW-575

Chicago Corvette Club

MW-004

## Governors:

MW135 Dan Wagner

630 337-7370

[wagnersminis@aol.com](mailto:wagnersminis@aol.com)

MW351 Dave Heinemann

708 638-0199

[windvz06@aol.com](mailto:windvz06@aol.com)

MW575 James Weddington

773 718-1507

[jwwedding@aol.com](mailto:jwwedding@aol.com)

MW004 Jon Kurtz

630 561-5117

[jon.e.kurtz1@gmail.com](mailto:jon.e.kurtz1@gmail.com)

## Sanctions:

Sat: MW-351-005, MW-135-001~002, MW-575-003~006

Sun: MW-004-001~004, MW-135-003~004, MW-575-007



WINDY CITY CORVETTES



Northern Rays Ltd.



Chicago Corvette Club



# Crazy Daze Autocross MADness 2024



**June 22-23, 2024  
14 Sanctioned  
Autocross Events**

**Closed Exhaust: 103db**



**Saturday – June 22, 2024**

Registration & Tech: 7:30AM to 9:00AM CDT

Drivers Meeting: 9:15AM CDT

First Car Out: 10 Minutes after Drivers Meeting Ends

Registration Fees per Driver: (Fees have been reduced in lieu of Awards)

NCCC & Non-NCCC Members ~ All 14 Events - \$130.00 Pre-Registered ~ \$140.00 Day of Event

Saturday or Sunday Only - \$ 65.00 Pre-Registered ~ \$ 70.00 Day of Event

Non-NCCC Guests should Pre-Register in the Guest or Metal Class

[NCCC Members On-Line Pre-Registration Link \(Closes on June 16\)](#) ~ Mail in Pre-Registration Form is attached

Pre-Registration is requested (Note Price Break ~ Pre Registration Payment must be received by June 19th)

**Sunday – June 23, 2024**

Registration & Tech: 7:30AM to 8:00AM CDT

Drivers Meeting: 8:15AM CDT

First Car Out: 10 Minutes after Drivers Meeting Ends

- ~ These events are voluntary. Participants come at their own risk. All current CDC guidelines will be followed.
  - ~ There will not be Food or Beverages available for purchase at the track but attendees may bring in their own Food and Beverage or go out and bring in Fast Food from the many establishments very close to the track.
  - ~ We only have use of the 2 Lots marked as "Track" and "Parking" on the map below. Any Driver using any other lot to warm up their car will be asked to leave for the remainder of the weekend & forfeit their registration fees.
- Non-NCCC Members are not covered by NCCC Insurance.**

**Alliant Energy Center of Dane County**  
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way  
Madison, WI 53713

**Mad City Vettes**

Saturday: MW-465-001

Sunday: MW-465-002

Joan Thomas, Governor

Overall Chairman

teamthomas525@gmail.com

815-494-5985 (Cell)

**Wisconsin Corvette Club**

Saturday: MW-075-002, -003

Sunday: MW-075-004, -005, -006

Ed Cassel, Governor

**River City Corvettes**

Saturday: MW-122-001, -002, -003

Sunday: MW-122-004

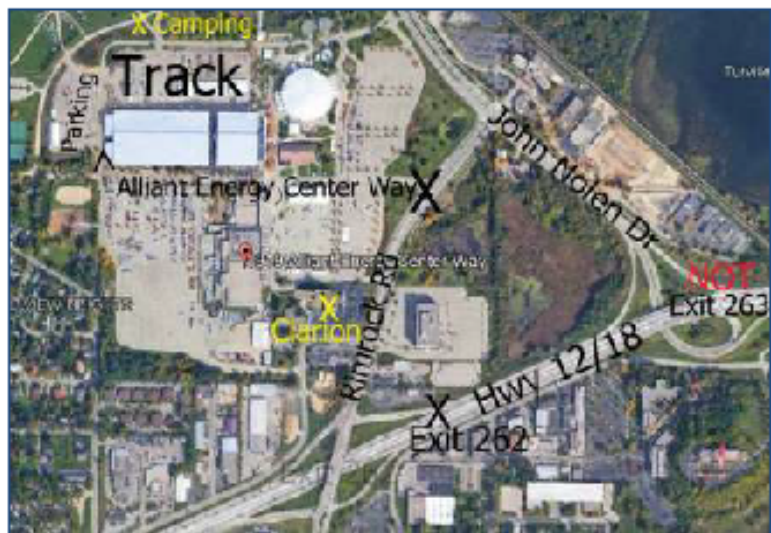
Roger Ondack, Governor

**Glass Favorites**

Saturday: MW-077-003

Sunday: MW-077-004, -005

Mike Link, Governor



Take Exit 142A off I-90/I-94/I-39 onto the Beltline Highway (Hwys 12/18) West. Take Exit 262 (not 263) onto Rimrock Road North. Turn left at 2<sup>nd</sup> set of traffic lights onto Alliant Energy Center Way. Turn Right onto Coliseum North Road to the Event Parking Lot Room Block at Clarion Suites until May 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Mad City Vettes 2110 Rimrock Road ~ \$112

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/sq90n97checkInDate=2024-06-21&checkOutDate=2024-06-23&ratePlanCode=BSUPVQ>

Willow Island Camping across the road from the Track ~ \$35





## ROUTE 66 CORVETTE CLUB 4 Rally Events – July 6, 2024

Rally number 1 (Gimmick Rally) – MW470-001 Rally number 2 (Chance Rally) – MW470-002  
Rally number 3 (Chance Rally) – MW470-003 Rally number 4 (Chance Rally) – MW470-004  
“Rallies will be run concurrently”

<u>EVENT FEES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ROUTE 66 CC GOVERNOR</u>
\$40.00 for all four events NO single event pricing	Poage Chevrolet Dealership 851 W. Pearce Blvd. Wentzville, MO 63385 636-327-6268 (for directions only)	Tom Reitz 314-496-3155 cell <a href="mailto:Fastglass95@yahoo.com">Fastglass95@yahoo.com</a>  Chairperson – Tom Reitz Co-Chairperson – Chris Reitz

### Registration & Tech (Central Time)

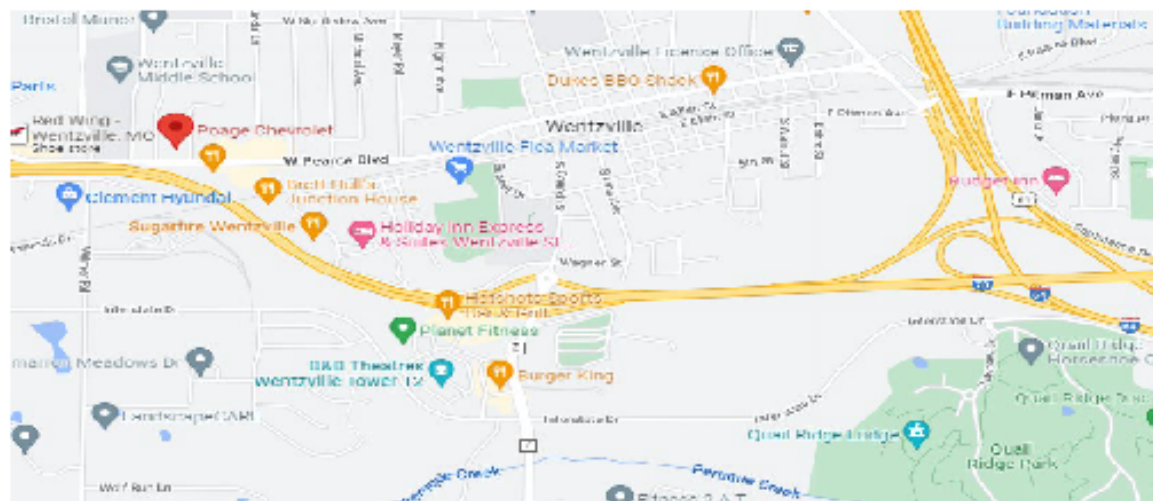
Registration: 8:45 AM to 9:30 AM

Tech: 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

Drivers Meeting: 9:50 AM

1<sup>st</sup> Car Off: following driver's meeting

- ALL PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE MUST SIGN WAIVER
- MUST Present Valid Driver's License to participate (DRIVER)
- NO alcoholic beverages permitted during rally (OK after)
- MUST BE NCCC member driving a Corvette to receive NCCC points
- Rally end point is Restaurant & Bar, food and beverage service is on you, off menu (awards presented at end point)



## **NICC Corvette Club 2024 Picnic**

at

Ken & Cindy's Hangar

5151 Orth Rd. Poplar Grove, Hangar # MH-5



Hosted by: Ken, Cindy, Gene & Linda

**Please RSVP to Linda Stimart and sign up to bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert to share:** Linda's cell: 815 298-8415, email: [glflvr2@yahoo.com](mailto:glflvr2@yahoo.com) or on the sign-up sheet at the May or June meeting.

**Date:** Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 3:00 PM

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person -Entrée and drinks included

# Autocross MADness Weekend 2024



**July 20-21, 2024**  
**14 Sanctioned**  
**Low Speed Events**  
**Autocross Weekend**



**NO Electric Vehicles Allowed ~ Closed Exhaust ~ No Drones ~ Quiet Time til 8:00 am each day.**  
**Early drop off at the track Friday until 5:30. Equipment & vehicles (no people or animals) may stay at the track overnight but neither Madison College nor the PSTF will be responsible for your lost, stolen or damaged property.**

**Mad City Vettes**  
 Saturday MW-465-003 Sunday MW-465-004  
 Joan Thomas, Governor ~ Overall Chairman  
 815-494-5985 (Cell)  
[teamthomas525@gmail.com](mailto:teamthomas525@gmail.com)

**Kettle Moraine Corvette Club**  
 Saturday MW-084-001, -002, -003, -004, -005  
 Sunday MW-084-006, -007, -008, -009, -010  
 Dick Huibregtse, Governor

**Stray Vettes of Illinois**  
 Saturday MW-621-001  
 Sunday MW-621-002  
 Sandy Arnold, Governor



Track is off US Hwy 151 about 13 miles NE of Madison, WI  
 From I-90/94/39 take Exit 135 to Sun Prairie  
 For all take Exit 111 (County V) West  
 Krause Rd is the VERY 1<sup>st</sup> right off V west of the 151/V Interchange

**Saturday – July 20, 2024**  
 Registration & Tech: 7:30AM to 9:00AM CDT  
 Drivers Meeting: 9:15AM CDT  
 First Car Out: 10 Minutes after Drivers Meeting Ends  
**NCCC & Non-NCCC Drivers**  
 All 14 Events - \$130.00 Pre-Registered  
 Saturday or Sunday Only - \$65.00 Pre-Registered  
 Mail in Pre-Registration Form is attached  
**NCCC & Non-NCCC Drivers Day of Event**  
 All 14 Events - \$140.00 ~ Saturday or Sunday Only - \$70.00

**Sunday – July 21, 2024**  
 Registration & Tech: 7:30AM to 8:00AM CDT  
 Drivers Meeting: 8:15AM CDT  
 First Car Out: 10 Minutes after Drivers Meeting Ends

Chairmen will be announced at the Drivers Meetings

[CLICK HERE for On-Line Pre-Registration](#) OR  
 Scan this QR Code →  
 to go On Line Pre-Registration



Pre Registration Payment must be received by July 16, 2024

**Lunch will be available for purchase on Saturday.**  
**Drivers and Workers will receive a Discount Coupon.**

No Alcohol, Smoking or Vaping on premises at any time.  
 All Attendees must sign the NCCC Insurance waiver.  
 All Drivers must show their Drivers License.  
 NCCC Members must show their NCCC Membership Card.  
 Car Numbers will be assigned by Registration. MWR Members requesting numbers will be charged per MWR Rules.  
 No parking on non-paved areas.

Participation is at one's own risk.  
 All Covid-19 Guidelines will be followed.  
 Non-NCCC Drivers will run in the Guest Class.  
 Non-NCCC Participants are not covered by NCCC Insurance.  
 Passengers will be allowed per NCCC Rules. However, MCV will require passengers to be at least 16 years old.  
 All non-competing vehicles park at Building "A" (see map).  
 Overnight Vehicle & Trailer Parking is allowed.  
 Overnight People & Pets ARE NOT allowed.  
 Gate is locked overnight.  
 Pets must be on a leash and cleaned up after.





**"FLYING BY THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS IX" AUTOCROSS**  
**14 LOW SPEED EVENTS**  
**AUGUST 10 & 11, 2024**



**Location: McHenry County College, 8900 US-14, Crystal Lake IL, 60012**

**EVENT FEES – Day Of**

**EITHER Saturday OR Sunday**      **NCCC Members - \$75    Non-NCCC - \$85**  
**Full Weekend Value Package**      **NCCC Members -\$140    Non-NCCC - \$165**  
**Less than a full day of racing \$12 per event**

**ON-LINE REGISTRATION by 8/5/24**

<https://www.corvettesnccc.org/NCCCOnlineRegistration/Programs/Registration.php?eventId=490> (If you don't send your fees by August 5th, you are not registered)

**Pre-Register by 8/5/24    NCCC Members – 1 Day \$60    Both Days \$120**

**Please make check payable to "Sunburst Corvette Club" and mail to  
 Pat Stevens, 789 Shoreline Rd, Lake Barrington, IL 60010**

**Lodging: Holiday Inn Crystal Lake, 800 S IL Rte 31, Crystal Lake 815-477-7000**  
**(\$109/night) book by 7/10**

<https://www.hig.com/redirect?path=search&brandCode=6C&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=CHICL&checkinDate=08&checkinMonthYear=072024&checkOutDate=11&checkOutMonthYear=072024&rateCode=6CBARC&PMID=99801505&GPC=SC3&no=viewfullsite=true>

**Hampton Inn, 1555 S. Route 31, McHenry, IL 815-578-1900 (book by 7/10)**  
**(\$169/night) <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/sunburst-corvette-club-august/>**

**Registration & Tech    SAT 8:00am to 9:00am    SUN 8:00am to 8:30am**

**Drivers' Meeting:    SAT 9:00am    SUN 8:30am**

**First Event:    SAT & SUN Immediately following the Drivers' Mtg.**

Non-NCCC participants are not covered by NCCC insurance. Safety and/or NCCC Rulebook infractions may result in disqualification of ejection from current and future event participation. No refunds will be made in this instance.

	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Sunburst Governor: Mike Moushey – 815-355-1850 (Cell)	MW-277-001	MW-277-004
Mad City Governor: Joan Thomas – 815-494-5985 (Cell)	MW-277-002	MW-277-005
NICC Governor: Dale Samuleson – 815-979-2352 (Cell)	MW-277-003	MW-277-006
Overall Chairperson: Mike Stevens – 847-989-9302 (Cell)	MW-465-005	MW-277-007
	MW-465-006	MW-277-008
	MW-465-007	MW-167-006
	MW-465-008	MW-167-007

# Mad City Vettes Fall Frenzy Weekend 2024



**MADISON COLLEGE**  
Public Safety  
Training Facility  
W2140 Krause Rd  
Columbus, WI 53925

**September 21-22, 2024**  
**14 Sanctioned**  
**Low Speed Events**  
**Autocross Weekend**



**NO Electric Vehicles Allowed ~ Closed Exhaust ~ No Drones ~ Quiet Time til 8:00 am each day.**  
Early drop off at the track Friday until 5:30. Equipment & vehicles (no people or animals) may stay at the track overnight but neither Madison College nor the PSTF will be responsible for your lost, stolen or damaged property.

**Mad City Vettes**  
Saturday ~MW-465-009 Sunday ~MW-465-010  
Joan Thomas, Governor ~ Overall Chairman  
815-494-5985 (Cell)  
[teamthomas525@gmail.com](mailto:teamthomas525@gmail.com)

**Wisconsin Corvette Club-Ed Cassel, Governor**  
Saturday ~MW-075-007 Sunday ~MW-075-008

**River City Corvettes-Roger Ondeck, Governor**  
Saturday ~MW-122-005, 006, -007  
Sunday ~MW-122-008, -009, -010

**Central Illinois Corvette Club**  
John Hibbeler, Governor  
Saturday ~MW-278-005, -006  
Sunday ~MW-278-007, -008



Track is off US Hwy 151 about 13 miles NE of Madison, WI

From I-90/94/39 take Exit 135 to Sun Prairie

For all take Exit 111 (County V) West

Krause Rd is the VERY 1<sup>st</sup> right off V west of the 151/V Interchange

**Saturday – September 21, 2024**  
Registration & Tech: 7:30AM to 9:00AM CDT  
Drivers Meeting: 9:15AM CDT  
First Car Out: 10 Minutes after Drivers Meeting Ends

**NCCC & Non-NCCC Drivers**  
All 14 Events - \$130.00 Pre-Registered  
Saturday or Sunday Only - \$65.00 Pre-Registered  
Mail in Pre-Registration Form is attached

**NCCC & Non-NCCC Drivers Day of Event**  
All 14 Events - \$140.00 ~ Saturday or Sunday Only - \$70.00

Pre Registration Payment must be received by September 17, 2024

**Sunday – September 22, 2024**  
Registration & Tech: 7:30AM to 8:00AM CDT  
Drivers Meeting: 8:15AM CDT  
First Car Out: 10 Minutes after Drivers Meeting Ends

Chairmen will be announced at the Drivers Meetings

[CLICK HERE for On-Line Pre-Registration](#) OR

Scan this QR Code →  
to go On Line Pre-Registration



**Lunch will be available for purchase on Saturday.**  
**Drivers and Workers will receive a Discount Coupon.**

No Alcohol, Smoking or Vaping on premises at any time.  
All Attendees must sign the NCCC Insurance waiver.  
All Drivers must show their Drivers License.  
NCCC Members must show their NCCC Membership Card.  
Car Numbers will be assigned by Registration. MWR Members requesting numbers will be charged per MWR Rules.  
No parking on non-paved areas.

Participation is at one's own risk.  
All Covid-19 Guidelines will be followed.  
Non-NCCC Drivers will run in the Guest Class.  
Non-NCCC Participants are not covered by NCCC Insurance.  
Passengers will be allowed per NCCC Rules. However, MCV will require passengers to be at least 16 years old.  
All non-competing vehicles park at Building "A" (see map).  
Overnight Vehicle & Trailer Parking is allowed.  
Overnight People & Pets ARE NOT allowed.  
Gate is locked overnight.  
Pets must be on a leash and cleaned up after.

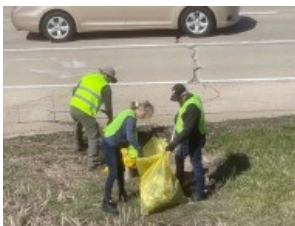


## **Spring Perryville Road Cleanup**

Submitted by Cindy Starzyk Photos by Cindy Starzyk

This year's Spring Perryville Cleanup was on Saturday, April 13th at 10am. We finally had a nice, sunny day and the wind was low. Ten NICC members turned out to volunteer. The NICC members who participated were Russ & Debbie Schaefer, John Stupiec & Sherry Putnam, Kevin Gugliuzza, Gordon Akey, Mike Lenth, Bob Rogers & Janet Gruhn, and Cindy & Ken Starzyk. They were able to finish cleaning the vast majority of the NICC adopted road area by about 11:15. No money was found this time, however Bob & Janet found his grand nephew's ID cards along the side of the road!! What are the chances of that!? Eight of us had a great lunch at our sponsor Old Chicago and the owners were very appreciative that we came in to support their business.

Thank you so much to all who volunteered!



## **NICC's 2024 Museum Cleanup**

Submitted by Cindy Starzyk Photos by Cindy Starzyk

NICC members are so amazing!! The Northern Illinois Corvette Club's Third Annual Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum Cleanup was completed on April 27<sup>th</sup>. It was done with enthusiasm and was actually fun! We cleaned the Wings & Wheels Museum buildings after they had gathered tons of dust and bugs during the off-season. The vintage autos and display cases in the museum were detailed, and "Slim's Garage" and the "Sunoco Station" were wiped down and swept.

This year we had another very large chore of purging junk from another building. Much of this was done by professionals on Thursday last week however there was plenty of cleanup still to be done by NICC members. Last year it was the Restoration Hangar that we cleared. This time it was the Historic Springfield Hangar that club members cleaned, swept and organized. Many heavy items had to be lifted up into the loft area and moved around. Mike Lenth, Sherry Putnam, John Stupiec, Debbie & Russ Schaefer, Barry & Caroline Mikels, Ken Starzyk and I were the members who worked on all of this. It only took us an hour and forty-five minutes to complete this community service activity.

Eight of us then dined at The Firehouse Pub in Roscoe. All of us enjoyed the delicious food, great conversation, and laughter as we recapped the morning.

Please take a look at the photos of the cleanup on the NICC website, in the newsletter, or on Facebook.

Thank you so much to all who volunteered!!





## The Ares S1 Speedster Is An Open-Top Corvette For The Elite

By CB Staff for Car Buzz at <https://carbuzz.com/news/the-ares-s1-speedster-is-an-open-top-corvette-for-the-elite/>

### Ever looked at a C8 Corvette and wanted more?

It's no secret the Chevrolet Corvette has some European influence. Heck, it's had Euro influence since its inception. The name Zora Arkus-Duntov doesn't exactly sound uniquely American, now does it? The most recent iteration of America's answer to Ferrari is no exception. But what if you want a little less New Balance and a little more Giorgia Armani from your C8 'Vette?

That's where Ares Modena comes in. The Italian coachbuilder is run by ex-Lotus boss Dany Bahar, and they have exactly what you're looking for. Well, they have 24 units of exactly what you're looking for. This is the Ares S1 Speedster, and though the company won't say it, it's a Corvette for those who have an espresso and a cigarette for breakfast instead of a McMuffin.

If this looks familiar to you, it's not just because the car is based on a new 'Vette. It's also because Ares has done a hardtop version before. But this car, says Ares, brings some important design updates that'll also be incorporated into the S1 coupe. Ares has built a new windscreen for the S1 to help tame some of that wind that's now in your hair, as well as revamped LED headlights, and a totally redesigned interior.



A new, triple-screen infotainment unit completely changes the look of the cockpit when compared to Chevy's original design, but that steering wheel certainly gives things away. Also changed are the seats, which if you ask us, look very Lamborghini. The exposed carbon tunnel that bisects the cabin is also a hint at the totally custom carbon body that underpins the S1 Speedster. Given the bespoke nature of the project, customers will be able to customize every facet of the S1, both in and out.

In addition to that bespoke carbon fiber construction, there's a raft of mechanical changes that separate the S1 from its American counterpart. That carbon body has been designed to enhance cooling, and its aerodynamic construction should guarantee predictable and fun handling characteristics. The S1 is still powered by a "mid-mounted naturally aspirated V8 engine connected to an 8-speed dual-clutch gearbox that sends power to the rear wheels" just like the coupe.

While power figures aren't mentioned, we're betting they're similar to the coupe, with around 705 horsepower at 6,450 rpm, 715 lb-ft of torque at 5,150 rpm, and a sky-high 9,000 rpm redline. Ares has said the coupe's exhaust note, which exits above the rear of the car, is supposed to sound like the V10 F1 cars of old. To us, that sounds a lot like Ares has gotten their hands on the new Z06's flat-plane powertrain, but Ares hasn't explicitly said so.

So, what's the damage on all this bespoke, RWD, carbon-clad V8 goodness? Ares says if you have to ask, you can't afford it, though pricing is "communicated upon request." In all, it's obvious Ares is capable of building some exciting stuff, like the Lamborghini Huracan-based Ares Panther V10.

While we'd certainly prefer to have a big V10 behind our heads, the idea of an open-top, European roadster with American V8 noises coming out the back doesn't sound all too bad either. Should you want one of the 24 units, Ares says the order books for your tailor-made supercar are now open.



## Here's Why C8 Corvette Brakes May Pulsate Or Grind

By Jonathan Lopez for GM Authority at <https://gmauthority.com/blog/2022/02/heres-why-c8-corvette-brakes-may-pulsate-or-grind/>

Eighth-generation C8 Corvette Stingray customers who select the optional Z51 Performance Package may experience occasional brake pulsing or grinding. Now, we're taking a look at the cause behind this condition, and how to fix it.



Per a report from GM TechLink, some C8 Corvette Stingray models between the 2021 and 2022 model years equipped with the Z51 Performance Package may experience brake pulsing or a grinding noise when applying the brake pedal. Additionally, the brake rotor surface may exhibit pitting. According to the report, these conditions are primarily identified with models that sit for an extended period, particularly in a high-humidity environment.

These brake conditions are the result of brake pad spotting and brake rotor surface grooving. In order to restore brake performance and reduce brake noise, the brakes can be burnished.



The brake burnishing process includes applying medium force to the brake pedal at 60 mph, reducing speed to 30 mph. The deceleration can be repeated 10 times to complete brake burnishing. Note that this brake burnishing process is only recommended for C8 Corvette models equipped with the Z51 Performance Package and associated brakes (RPO code J55), and is not recommended for the JL9 brake system. Refer to the owner's manual for more information.

As a reminder the C8 Corvette's Z51 Performance Package includes the following content (relevant RPO codes listed in parentheses):

- Z51 performance brakes (J55)
- Z51 performance suspension (FE3)
- Performance exhaust (NPP)
- Performance rear axle ratio (GM7)
- Electronic Limited Slip Differential (G96)
- Z51 rear spoiler, front splitter (T0A)
- 245/35ZR19 front and 305/30ZR20 rear, blackwall, high performance tires (XFQ)
- Heavy-duty cooling system (V08)

Behind the cabin, the eighth-generation C8 Corvette Stingray is equipped with the naturally aspirated 6.2L V8 LT2 gasoline engine, which is rated 490 horsepower and 465 pound-feet of torque in standard spec, and 495 horsepower and 470 pound-feet of torque when equipped with the optional Performance Exhaust system. Output is routed to the rear wheels through an eight-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission.



Under the body panels, the C8 Corvette rides on the Y2 platform. Corvette production takes place exclusively at the GM Bowling Green Assembly plant in Kentucky.



## How To Modify A Corvette The Proper Way

By Micah Zumar for HotCars at <https://www.hotcars.com/how-modify-chevrolet-corvette-proper-way/>

**It turns out that when modifying a vehicle, the proper line of thinking is to keep the best attributes and improve on the worst.**

There are many reasons why we might choose to change the attributes of something we've just purchased. We might think a product would be awesome if only this one thing was different, or maybe we just don't personally like an aspect of the item despite its value, or a feature might just generally suck to begin with and we have the know-how and time to make it better.



Image: GM Authority

When it comes to modifying cars, we've all seen some of the serious Frankenstein-inspired disasters people have created. The truly heart-breaking spawns are those that began as nice looking vehicles at birth, such as a Corvette, but then the new owner felt it lacked 26-inch rims and a metallic hot pink paint job. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder of course, and if you're truly proud of raising your Lamborghini Gallardo two feet off the ground, thereby negating everything that makes it a Lamborghini, more power to you.

Luckily for the rest of us DIYers, there are many level-headed people to steer us in the right direction of customization. It turns out that when modifying a vehicle, the proper line of thinking is to keep the best attributes and improve on the worst. The Chevrolet Corvette has a rich history spanning over six decades, eight different main iterations including the all new mid-engined C8 have been launched.

The obvious Corvette upgrades are all performance oriented with an eye toward squeezing more power from those famous small or big block V8's, but there are also countless well-conceived body-kits and interior improvements one could tastefully venture into. Let's take a look.

### Performance Mods

The ability to breath better doesn't just benefit all living creatures; your engine performance also improves. There are several simple 'bolt-on' upgrades one can make to improve performance, and installing a CAI (cold air intake) is one of the easiest ways to add 15-30 hp with little effort. During combustion, fuel burns more efficiently with a higher rate of oxygen molecules present, and cold air has more oxygen than warm air. Simple right?



Image: YouTube



Image: CorvetteForum

Of course, you should also be equally concerned with how air exits your engine, which is why upgrading your exhaust headers will be the next thing you do. Corvsport.com tells us, "Exhausting combustion gases through a stock exhaust system is closely related in nature to exhaling through your mouth with a hand covering it". Upgraded headers means that each cylinder basically gets it's own exhaust pipe, ultimately reducing back-pressure and increasing airflow. To complete your engine's airflow system, look to the rear end and install a tried and true Cat Back exhaust. These pipes, resonators, and mufflers attach after your catalytic converters, adding more horses and torque and perhaps most importantly, a more pronounced (louder, deeper) note than the stock stuff.

Of course, if you're looking to get some serious horsepower upgrades, replace the ECU and start mods to fit a turbocharger into the equation. Expect to upgrade camshafts, rods, pistons, headers, clutch, fuel pump and injectors for starters, because if any of those components aren't able to handle the extra pressure, you won't be happy with the result.



Image: LSX Magazine

Adding more horses to pull your wagon is one thing, but don't forget to also upgrade your brakes and tires because eventually, begrudgingly you'll have to stop again. You can probably find cheaper rims than the \$10K HRE forged 845's seen on the '94 ZR1 above, but who's to say you want to. Be sure to add larger cross-drilled rotors, 5-6 piston calipers and high temperature brake pads behind those wheels.

Older Corvette springs have been described as 'plastic and buggy'. To keep everything on the ground, your upgraded suspension should be some kind of coil-over kit like those from Vansteel. With an adjustable ride height, a good coil-over will give you better overall stability and handling while flying down the highway.

### Body Mods

Certain other mods can also increase stability by improving aerodynamics and outer air-flow. You can upgrade the front bumper to include spoilers, diffusers, and air duct splitters like this 1,200 HP Hennessey C8 above.



Image Motor1

To protect your body panels from rocks and other flying objects, try installing larger splash guards and side rocker panels. There are also film kits you can install on your lower doors to safeguard that custom paint job.



Image: Barn Finds

If you're looking for a dramatic aesthetic change, you can buy a complete Greenwood wide body kit like the one seen on this '80 C3 Shark. It features slotted vents all over the front end and a not so subtle rear wing. Don't be embarrassed if the stripping reminds you of the original Batmobile.

### Interior Mods

Corvettes have long been known to deliver world class power with comparably bargain bin interiors, but that's why they're among the most reasonably priced sports cars on the market.

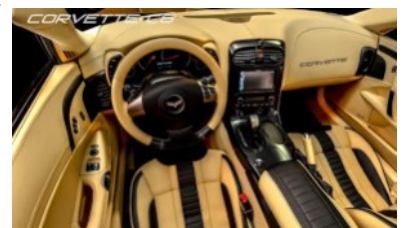


Image: Carscoops

Like all the other components, there are infinite upgrades to be found for your cabin. You could install a state-of-the-art infotainment system, racing seats, carbon fiber panels, upgraded Alcantara liners, cashmere carpets, and chrome gauges. Alternatively, you could pay Carlex Design obscene amounts of money (\$20K+) to completely redesign your cockpit as we see in the C6 above. Every inch of the interior is wrapped with high-quality Nappa leather in a 'vanilla and pepper' color scheme. Be sure not to spill your coffee!

## From the Editor

NICC Editor: Preston Morgan

I have spent most of my life in the Springfield, IL area. As you probably know, that area is rich with Abe Lincoln history and lore. I appreciate the opportunity to grow up and work in an area so steeped in history. Now I live in Florida and once again find myself in a history rich area. We live close to Sarasota, which is known for its connection to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. I always enjoyed the circus as a child and I have to admit that as an adult my interest has never waned. If you ever come to this area of Florida, you must take the time to visit the circus museum. And of course you must stop and say hello to Nina and I. We love to host our NICC family members when they come to Florida.



## The Strange, Spectacular, Sad Story of The Ringling Bros.' Elephant Polka

**In 1942, the Ringling Bros. circus convinced Balanchine and Stravinsky to produce a ballet—for elephants.**

By Robert Plunket for Sarasota Magazine at <https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/arts-and-entertainment/2020/12/ringling-bros-circus-elephant-polka>

Sarasota, Florida is one of those special cities whose name is instantly identifiable with an art form. Just as Los Angeles is home to the movies and New York is home to Broadway, Sarasota is home to the circus. During the Big Top's heyday, our town was full of people creating art.



Some were world-famous stars, like the Wallendas, animal trainer Frank Buck, and clowns like Lou Jacobs and Emmett Kelly. Others—thousands, in fact—were here to provide them a glittering support system—costumes, sets, music and lighting. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus winter headquarters bustled with activity, rather like a Hollywood studio. There was so much to see, rehearsals and wild animals, that it was the largest tourist attraction in the state.

The defining factor of the art created in Sarasota back in those days was its unabashedly lowbrow nature. The circus defined the term lowbrow. It was broad, overly bright, noisy, had an earthy smell and was aimed at the masses. Anybody, even a 3-year-old, could understand it just by looking it.



Image: The Ringling

It was the polar opposite of that other kind of art, the highbrow. That's the world of intellectual art, where moral dilemmas are examined and innovative techniques are embraced. High art often drew inspiration from the circus (Picasso had a circus period), but for the circus to flirt with highbrow art seemed like a disaster waiting to happen.

But it did happen, just once, with spectacular results.

Our story begins at the New York World's Fair in 1939.

John Ringling North, who inherited control of the circus from his uncle, John Ringling, just two years earlier, had put together an equestrian show for the fair, with exhibition and acrobatic riding and a Wild West show, presented five times a day. It was a look backward to the sort of thing the circus had been doing for decades, and it was a big flop.

The big hit of the fair was the exact opposite—a look into the future. At the General Motors pavilion, the Futurama exhibit always had a three-hour line. In an enormous stream-lined building, you would sit in a plush armchair and be whisked through an 18-minute ride over and around the "world of tomorrow," a vast miniature creation of what the world would look like in 1960.



John Ringling North  
Image: The Ringling



Perfectly composed cities and picturesque countryside were connected by a graceful system of throughways. The cars on the throughways actually moved. The city of the future contained wonders only dreamt of: landing pads for helicopters, a sports stadium with a retractable roof, and even a revolving restaurant set atop a skyscraper. Over half a million tiny buildings had been created. People were astonished.

So was North. He found out all he could about its designer, a man named Norman Bel Geddes. (Norman added the Bel to make himself seem more exotic. And, yes, his daughter was actress Barbara Bel Geddes.) One of the great design geniuses of the last century, Bel Geddes pretty much invented the field of industrial design. He could improve anything, usually by stripping it down to its essence and then streamlining it.

He designed everything—ships, planes, cars, radios, furniture, stage sets. He was both an artist and a social thinker. He told us we could create a world that was clean, efficient and harmonious. As one critic said, “He was a missionary preaching the gospel of modernism.”

North arranged to meet with Bel Geddes and discovered something else. The designer was just as much of a showman as he was.

They made a deal. Bel Geddes would be given a free hand to redesign—indeed, rethink—the circus. Up until now it had been a series of unrelated acts, with a sideshow and menagerie attached. Bel Geddes turned it into a cohesive experience, united by color, design, lighting and costumes. Each year had a different theme—for example, Mother Goose in 1941—and everything flowed from that unifying principle. The entire 1941 show was now a story being told to Old King Cole.



Norman Bel Geddes  
Image: Library of Congress

The Big Top was now blue; the menagerie tent red. Posters were redesigned in an avant-garde style by the leading poster artists of the day. Sideshow banners were repainted in a modernistic style, along with a jungle-themed menagerie. There were new concession stands. Aerial ballets featuring scores of showgirls were added. Bel Geddes built a new home—air conditioned—for Gargantua, the star gorilla. He even changed the very sawdust. Now it was colored pink in rings one and three, with gleaming white in the center ring and blue in the surrounding hippodrome track.

Circus purists were appalled. But the public loved it. The 1941 season, produced as war engulfed Europe, was the most successful ever. North even talked Bel Geddes into redesigning the bar at the John Ringling Hotel in Sarasota. It became a masterpiece of jazzy midcentury design, with witty murals by Anton Refregier.

When production for the 1942 season began, North called a meeting at his mother’s home on Bird Key. He had an idea. The circus elephants were one of the biggest draws, and all 50 of them performed in parades and production numbers. What if they performed their own ballet, to original music?

As they kicked around ideas, Miles White, the new costume designer hired by Bel Geddes, came up with the perfect person to pull it off: George Balanchine.

Balanchine has gone down in history as the most important choreographer of the 20th century. He was synonymous with the aesthetic rigor of high art. Born in Russia in 1904, he got his early training at the Imperial Ballet School, but like many Russian dancers, he defected to the West. In Paris in the 1920s, he made his reputation with a series of successes, working with such composers as Stravinsky, Debussy and Ravel. Many of his



Image: Public Domain

pieces for the Ballets Russes had sets and costumes by artists like Matisse and Picasso.

His instantly recognizable style was known as “neoclassical.” It was pure dance, stripped down to the essentials. To him it was all about the choreography. Telling a story, the narrative of the dance, did not interest him. He was also famous for his prima ballerinas and married four of them. Their appearance was crucial to him, particularly their weight, and many of his dancers had scary bulimia and anorexia tales to tell.

But Balanchine was adventurous and had an open mind. One of his favorite dancers was Ginger Rogers, and he was one of the first to incorporate motifs of Black dance into his work. So when he got a call from John North asking if he was interested in choreographing a ballet for 50 elephants, he immediately said yes.

His new corps de ballet actually had a varying number of elephants, and some of the ballerinas were bulls, as male elephants are called. They were very well trained and could move in time to music, if it was simple enough. There was a prima ballerina, the famous Modoc. Actually, the circus at that time had three Modocs: Big Modoc, Little Modoc and Wallace Modoc. But Big Modoc was the star, a celebrated performer in her own right, featured on the posters, and definitely not anorexic.

Balanchine’s immediate problem was the music. The circus, of course, had plenty of music. Circus tunes are perhaps the most recognizable in the world. And the Ringling band, led by the famous Merle Evans, was a unique collection of instruments, including a Hammond organ.

But Balanchine recognized the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in front of him. He needed a composer with a lot of nerve, and his mind went immediately to his old partner, Igor Stravinsky. They had worked together many times before, and their collaborations were among the most storied and successful in the world of music. There was no one who embodied “high art” more than Stravinsky.

In 1941 Stravinsky was living in Los Angeles, a refugee from the war in Europe. It was a busy, nerve-wracking time for him. His brother and his niece had just died. He was trying to complete the *Dances Concertantes* and worrying about his future. Then he got the phone call from his old friend Balanchine.

“I wonder if you would like to do a little ballet with me,” Balanchine began.

“For whom?”

“Some elephants.”

“How old?”

“Very young.”

“All right. If they are very young elephants, I will do it.”

And so the genius who woke up the world to modernism with his score for the ballet *The Rite of Spring* set to work. He made no bones about why he accepted the commission. The fee was large, and he could dash it off in no time.

The completed piece was just under four minutes long and was dubbed the *Circus Polka*. Only parts of it are in polka rhythm; the meter changes frequently and it uses musical phrases from Schubert’s *Marche Militaire*. The overall effect is light, happy, circus-like, and perhaps a little complicated.

Back in Sarasota, at the winter headquarters out on Beneva Road, Balanchine was working with his dancers, both human and elephantine. The beasts were having trouble following the rhythm changes. More than once their nerves overtook them and they would bolt. Balanchine and trainer Walter McClain would have to chase after them.



George Balanchine  
Image: Public Domain



Igor Stravinsky  
Image: Library of Congress

Costumes were designed by Miles White and Bel Geddes, pink tutus for all of them, including the bulls, plus elaborate headdresses and earrings. The circus band did its best with the Stravinsky orchestrations, but there was a feeling of unease as showtime drew closer. It was all so bizarre. Was it too highbrow? Would it work?

They needn't have worried. Opening night, April 9, 1942, at Madison Square Garden, was a triumph. Vera Zorina, Balanchine's wife at the time, took the role as lead dancer for the gala charity premiere. Modoc carried the ballerina out in her trunk and delicately placed her in the middle of the center ring. Then the rest of the elephants entered, each with a ballerina, and encircled the arena. Here's what The New York Times wrote the next morning:

*"They came into the ring in artificial blue-lighted dusk, first the little pink dancers, then the great beasts. The little dancers pirouetted into the three rings and the elephant herds gravely swayed and nodded rhythmically... The arc of the sway widened and the stomping picked up with the music. In the center ring, Modoc the Elephant danced with amazing grace and in time with the tune, closing in perfect cadence with the crashing finale."*

The Circus Polka was a triumph. As one historian put it, "The only stampede was to the box office." Thousands attended the 42 performances. Millions more saw it as it toured the country. Yet after the 1942 season it was never performed again. North's Ringling cousins began to fight for more control of the programming and the content. The circus became less adventurous. The glorious attempt to blend high and low culture came to an end.

But the Circus Polka took on a life of its own. Stravinsky (in an odd twist of fate, his son Soulima, also a composer, retired to Siesta Key and died in a nursing home on Tuttle Avenue in 1994) reorchestrated the piece for a symphony orchestra, and today it is in the repertoire of companies all over the world. Jerome Robbins, Balanchine's great rival for the title of most influential choreographer, created his own version. He replaced the elephants with little girls in pink tutus and had a ringmaster direct them. Mikhail Baryshnikov played the role several times and reviewers called it *"cute in the best possible way."*

Six-year-old girls instead of elephants. Maybe it's better that way. It has become the fashion today to re-examine the past and make moral judgments about it. From this point of view, the Circus Polka changes from a nice little story about a circus performance and turns into a tale of abuse and exploitation.

Elephants are sensitive animals, social in nature, who communicate, raise families, mourn their dead, empathize and mentor their young. The ones that worked for Ringling were forced into a life very different from what nature intended. Now they were separated from their mothers shortly after birth and trained, with bull hooks, whippings and electric shock, to perform tricks. They lived in cages, were often chained and forced to stand all day on concrete. It must have been a very unhappy existence.

In the 1970s, the emerging animal rights movement took aim at Ringling Bros. and waged a decades-long campaign that not only ended the elephants' participation in the circus but eventually the circus as well. In a sort of *"#metoo"* coda to the story, the elephants finally got the circus canceled. For good. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey officially closed down on May 21, 2017, after 133 years in business.

One wonders what the elephants thought about all this. When they retired, which they did when they got too old to work, they were sent to an animal preserve to live out their days. People who worked there reported that sometimes they would see members of the herd standing there, finally free from their cages and bull hooks, with their heads swaying and their feet moving, doing the Circus Polka.



Image: The Ringling



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