



50 Years

VETTE
Visions

December 2023

The official Newsletter of the Award Winning

Northern Illinois Corvette Club

Hello fellow members:

It's hard to believe that we are in the first week of December and we have had snow and now the temperature is in the mid 50's. I am sure there will be many more surprises to come before the New Year.

December is a busy month for everybody, with family and dinners for Christmas and holiday parties. Remember that the NICC Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 16. There are 25 members that have indicated to attend the party. It's always a good time when friends celebrate together. The club has many activities scheduled for the New Year, so be part of the activities and enjoy the company.

One of the big projects for next year is a new website. We have a website designer who is going to help design a website that will be updated and easier to use. We are also working on a pay online program for the website.

We have purchased walkie talkies for our cruises, which makes it easier for our trips. We learned the importance and how valuable walkie talkies are during our Route 66 cruise. The radios make it much easier to keep track of everyone while we are caravanning to events.

These are only a few things that are happening for the new year. Our leadership team is working hard to provide a lot of fun activities for the membership. As you will see on the schedule of events for the upcoming year of 2024, it's going to be a fun year. This is a member driven club so we



President's
Corner

want to make sure to include activities that will delight all of our members.

The photo contest ended November 30. All the entries are posted on the website. The judges are in the process of reviewing the photos right now. Prizes will be awarded for first place, second place, and third place. It is planned that the prizes will be awarded at the January meeting.

Remember this is your club, get involved and enjoy the time that we have together.

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 new ideas. Members are also welcomed to attend the Board meeting. Guests are welcome to attend the social hour and membership meetings. Bring a Corvette enthusiast friend and have a good 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!

December 2023

2024 - Membership and Board Meetings				
Jan	3	5:00 PM - Board Meeting		
		6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Feb	7	6:00 PM - Social Hour 7:00 PM - Meeting		
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		

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](#)

Jan	NO EVENTS SCHEDULED				
Feb	4	Sun	3:15 PM	Bowling Party & Dinner	Ken & Cindy
Mar	9 or 16	Sat	TBD	Wine Tasting	Need Volunteer(s)
Apr	6	Sat	10:00 AM	Perryville Road Cleanup	Need Volunteers
	6	Sat	5:00 PM	MWR Banquet	Madison, WI
	20	Sat	10:00 AM	Wings & Wheels Museum Cleanup	Need Volunteers

2024 - Other Events of Interest

May 14-19	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 ??	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

December

Russ Moore
Jerry Weaver
Virgil (Rusty) Hill
Bob Rogers
Preston Morgan
Tom Stern
Michele Meiter

January

Jim Millikin
Judy Webster
Craig Meiter
Mindy Reiman

Wedding Anniversaries



December

No Anniversaries Reported

January

Jerry & Darlene Weaver
Steve & Dana Stadel

VETTE QUOTES (Christmas Version)

"Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind."

Miracle on 34th Street

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

Hamilton Wright Mabie

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

A Christmas Carol

"Christmas is a season kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

Washington Irving

"Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold."

Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

Mary Angelou

"Rats. Nobody sent me a Christmas card today. I almost wish there weren't a holiday season. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?"

Charlie Brown



**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

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CORVETTE CLUB
DECEMBER 6, 2023

The annual meeting of the members of the Northern Illinois Corvette Club was held both in person and by utilizing Zoom Video Conferencing on December 6, 2023 beginning at the hour of 7:00 p.m. pursuant to notice as required by the bylaws of the corporation.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, Ken Starzyk was chosen as chairman of the meeting and Cindy Starzyk was chosen as secretary of the meeting.

The chairman called for the secretary to determine the number of members represented. The secretary took [roll](#), and the following members were present: 26 members were present in the meeting room and two on Zoom, for a total of 28.

The chairman then gave a report on the 2023 activities of the corporation for the year and its prospects for the ensuing year. This was done as a PowerPoint presentation and encompassed the following headings:

2023 Board Members – Thank you

Officers nominated for 2024

Competition Point Standings

Membership

Monthly Meeting Attendance

Activities

Advertising Revenue

Advertisers

Financials

Additional Comments (Goals for 2024)

The members were pleased with the efforts of the officers and directors of the corporation. Ken thanked everyone for their hard work. After discussion, the following resolutions were duly made, seconded and unanimously carried by all the shareholders and by a show-of-hands vote.

Sherry Putnam stated the Resolutions:

RESOLVED that the financial statement of the corporation be and the same is hereby approved, ratified and confirmed and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corporation's reimbursement to the directors and officers for expenditures made by them during the past fiscal year for and on behalf of the corporation be and the same confirmed and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all action of every kind taken by any officer of the corporation and the directors of the corporation for and on behalf of the corporation during the past fiscal year be and they are hereby authorized, readopted, approved, ratified and confirmed.

The motion to approve the resolutions was made by Cindy Starzyk and seconded by Dale Samuelson. The motion was approved. Ken requested a show of hands and the vote was unanimously approved.

The chairman called for the introduction of 2023 officers for the evening:

President: John Stupiec	Sergeant-at-arms: Gene Stimart
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
Historian: Nancy Bailey & Carolyn Samuelson	Webmaster: Linda Stimart
NCM Ambassador: Sherry Putnam	Parade Director: Open Position
Sunshine Chair: Doris Hicks	Media Director: Traci Hill

Thank you to all who have served.

The chairman of the meeting then stated that the bylaws of the corporation provided for the election of officers and directors of the corporation to hold office until the next annual meeting of the members or until their respective successor shall be elected. The chairman called for the nomination of directors, whereupon the following persons were nominated for 2024:

2024 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors:

President: John Stupiec	Sergeant-at-Arms: Open Position
Governor: Dale Samuelson	Editor: Preston Morgan
Secretary: Cindy Starzyk	Social Director: Debbie Schaefer
Treasurer: Louise Gorsch	Quartermaster: Barb Johnson
Membership Director: 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

No further nominations were made, therefore the nominations were closed and the members proceeded to vote on the nominees. The vote was taken and the nominees were duly elected to serve until the next annual meeting of the members or until their respective successors are elected.

A motion to approve the nominations for 2024 was made by Cindy Starzyk and seconded by Sherry Putnam. The motion was approved.

1. Introduction of Guests: No Guests were present.

2. Minutes: A motion was made to approve the November, 2023 minutes by Barb Johnson and seconded by Gene Stimart. The motion was approved.

3. Introduction of Officers, Directors and Chairs; call for reports:

President – John Stupiec, Absent. Ken Starzyk filled in for John. No report.

Governor – Dale Samuelson: See Dale's full report in the NICC newsletter. The dates for our autocross fundraiser events will be June 29/30 in Madison, WI, August 10/11 in McHenry, IL, and October 19/20 in McHenry, IL. NCCC membership cards are coming. The convention dates are May 13 to 19. In 2025 the convention will be run by MWR so NICC's help will be requested to plan and execute certain activities. We will partner

with the entire Midwest Region. Corvette Museum plant tours are canceled for now.

Secretary – Cindy Starzyk: No report.

Treasurer – Louise Gorsch: Louise and the members discussed changes to the proposed 2024 budget. We will add \$100 for Greg Osen to work as the DJ at the Bachrodt Car Show. Car Show Expenses will increase to \$900. We will add \$200 to the Social Director Events Expense line for gas cards to give to people who conduct runs (mini runs – give \$25, full runs – give \$50). \$3600 for the new website is probably high but should stay the same for now. The budget looks closely balanced. We will vote to approve the final budget at the next meeting in January, 2024. A motion to hold over the proposed 2024 budget was made by Dale Samuelson and seconded by Sherry Putnam. The motion was approved. A motion to approve the November Cash Flow Report was made by Barb Johnson and seconded by Gene Stimart. The motion was approved. A motion to approve \$337 to reimburse Dale Samuelson's 2023 Governor's meeting expenses was made by Leon Gorsch and seconded by Linda Stimart. The motion was approved.

Louise also discussed the summer run to Colorado Springs. Following is the tentative itinerary:

July 21 – Lincoln, NB

July 22 – Colorado Springs

July 23 – Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, Air Force Academy

July 24 – Royal Gorge Train Ride, scenic drive on Hwy 50 & Pueblo

July 25 – Cripple Creek/ Train ride, Casinos, Flying W Ranch for dinner

July 26 – Return. Arrive home July 27

Membership – Leon Gorsch: The number of members is now 87. We lost 19 members to non-renewals this year so we will begin 2024 with only 68. Please help attain new members by engaging with Corvette owners as you encounter them. We do have two new members. They are Steve and Dana Stadel and own a 2023 black CV.

Parliamentarian – Doris Hicks: No report.

Historians - Nancy Bailey (absent) and Carolyn Samuelson: No report.

NCM Ambassador - Sherry Putnam: No report.

Sunshine Club Chair - Doris Hicks: No report.

Sergeant-at-arms - Gene Stimart: Collected \$4 from those who didn't have their name badges. Gene thanked everyone for the great sympathy cards after the passing of his brother.

Editor - Preston Morgan: On Zoom. Articles for the January newsletter are due by December 8th. The photo contest is over. First, second and third place winners will be announced at the January meeting. Preston and Nina wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanked everyone for their support of the newsletter and allowing them to remain members of NICC.

Social Director – Debbie Schaefer: No report.

Quartermaster - Barb Johnson: Barb showed the members "I ♡ My Corvette" t-shirts that we can purchased for \$28.

Advertising – Ken Starzyk: No report.

Public Relations - Ken Starzyk: Ken thanked the 13 NICC members who attended and generously donated to the December 1st Lou Bachrodt Toy Drive. Bachrodt has confirmed that they will sponsor us again in 2024 and partner with us on the NICC/Bachrodt Car Show.

Webmaster - Linda Stimart: Linda is updating the website's email list. If your email address has changed please contact her. She and Traci Hill will meet again with the web designer in January to develop the NICC website.

Parade Director – Leon Gorsch: No report.

d. Tailgate Party – Barb & Don thanked all for coming and they were thanked by all. Next year's Tailgate Party will be on Sunday, November 3rd.

Media Director – Traci Hill, Absent.

4. Old Business:

- a. Charity Committee – Last month we discussed increasing the amount for veterans (The Veterans Network of Northern Illinois) to \$1,500. A motion was made by Barb to approve the additional \$1,500 for the Veterans. The motion was seconded by Gene Stimart. The motion was approved.
- b. Holiday Party – Sherry passed a sign-up sheet around and Louise collected members' money for the party. At this point we have 25 members signed up. The deadline for RSVP is December 11th. See the website for more information.
- c. Budget review – See the Treasurer's report.
- d. Tailgate Party – Barb & Don thanked all for coming and they were thanked by all. Next year's Tailgate Party will be on Sunday, November 3rd.

5. New Business:

- a. Budget approval for 2024 – See the Treasure's report. A draft of the 2024 budget proposal was handed out.
- b. Event scheduling for 2024 – See the Governor's report.
- c. New website - See the Webmaster's report.
- d. Backup for website (volunteer) – Linda Stimart will be the backup.
- e. Activities for 2024 – The calendar will soon be adjusted per information from tonight's meetings and posted on the NICC website.
- f. Campaign for new members (ideas to increase membership) – See the Membership Director's report.
- g. Walkie Talkies for runs – These are budgeted for, and John Stupiec has purchased them. Ken Starzyk will be the custodian of the walkie talkies.
- h. Recognition of Sam's wait staff: The fill-in President, Ken Starzyk gave a \$50 NICC bonus check to Jean, the server for our meetings at Sam's Restaurant and recognized her excellent service.

6. New Cars: None

7. Collection of Fines: \$4

8. 50/50 Drawing: Gordon Akey won \$34.

9. Attendance Drawing: \$30.00 – Mike Lenth won and was present. Next month - \$10.00.

Adjournment: 8:09 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Sherry Putnam and seconded by Gene Stimart. The motion was approved.

Next Club Monthly Meetings:

January 3, 2024

Board meeting 5:00 p.m.

Social hour 6:00 p.m.

Member meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Cindy Starzyk

Cindy Starzyk

NICC Governor's Report

Submitted by Dale Samuelson, Governor, NICC



NCCC renewals are done and NICC members should expect their membership cards in the mail, probably early February. If you'd like an electronic version of your membership card, go to the following link:

<https://www.corvettesnccc.org/NCCCMemberDatabase/MembershipCards/MembershipCard.php?ncccNumber=MW-167-#####>. Replace the four "&" with your membership number.

The 2024 Midwest Region competition schedule has been finalized and includes the following NICC fundraiser/autocross dates:

June 29th & 30th in Madison, WI

August 10th & 11th in McHenry County, IL

October 19th & 20th in McHenry County IL

Registration for the 2024 NCCC convention in Joplin, MO is scheduled to open on January 15th. Check the NCCC web site for the latest information: www.corvettesnccc.org/2024Convention/Convention2024.php

The Midwest Region will host a NCCC Convention for 2025 in the Wisconsin Dells area. Joan Thomas and Tim Wood will be Chair/Co-Chair. NICC should discuss what part of that convention might we want to be involved. Options might include hosting a competitive event such as the low speed autocross (at Road America), hosting one of the nightly parties, helping with registration, etc.

That's all for now,

Dale Samuelson

Governor

Northern Illinois Corvette Club





2011 Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport 2dr

Exterior Color: Supersonic Blue Metallic

Interior Color: Cashmere

Mileage: 34,211

Preferred Equipment Group: 3LT

Clean CarFax

Retail Price: \$40,400

Call or text Commercial Manager, Joe Luy, at (815) 238-4429 to discuss this car or to custom order your new Corvette today!



Image Credit: Corvette Action Center



2023 NICC Holiday Party!!
December 16, 5:30



Sherry's Place
313 Armadale Way
Loves Park, IL

You do NOT have to bring an exchange gift!!
Gift Card Game: NICC will provide gift cards and more for you to win!

Catered Menu

Italian Beef
Salad
Mostaccioli
Chocolate Cake

Water, Coffee, Soft Drinks
If you would like different drinks, please BYO

All you need to do is pay Louise \$20 per person either at the December meeting or at the party.

Please RSVP to Cindy at 815 222-2848 if you haven't done so yet by December 11



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

✕—✕—✕—✕—✕—**PLEASE PRINT**—✕—✕—✕—✕—✕—✕

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)

Tailgate Party

Submitted by Barb Johnson Photos by Barb Johnson

The Tailgate Party held November 5th at the Johnson's was fun even though the Bears lost. They tried but just couldn't pull it off. Maybe next game. We ate plenty of very tasty food. All left disappointed but weren't hungry. The camaraderie of those in attendance lifted our spirits.



17



24



Lou Bachrodt Holiday Toy Drive

Submitted by Cindy Starzyk Photos by Cindy Starzyk and Tracy Beyer

One of NICC's community service projects is the Lou Bachrodt Annual 12 Hours of Salvation Toy Drive. This year marks their 26th year! On December 1, 2023, NICC members generously brought gifts for the Salvation Army to give to children of all ages in the greater Rockford area.

This year, the NICC members who attended were Traci Hill and her grandson, Bentley, Leon and Louise Gorsch, Barry and Caroline Mikels, Dale and Carolyn Samuelson, Debbie Schaefer, Bob Rogers and Janet Gruhn and Ken and Cindy Starzyk. TV Channels 13 and 23 were broadcasting live showing the hundreds of presents that were piled high. We had a chance to socialize with our partners from the Salvation Army, our friends at Lou Bachrodt and fellow club members. There was wonderful food prepared for the event, consisting of potato soup, chili, donuts and cinnamon rolls!

Santa Claus happily posed with club members for photos. Included in some of the photos were Joe Luy and Tracy Beyer who are the spearheads for the NICC/Bachrodt Car Shows and their annual sponsorship, along with General Manager, Charlie Hansmeyer.



The Chevrolet Corvette That's Worth Over 90 Times Its Original Cost Now

By Alex Hevesy for Slash Gear at <https://www.slashgear.com/1004510/the-chevrolet-corvette-thats-worth-over-90-times-its-original-cost-now/>

Chevy Corvettes have never been a budget-oriented car. Compared to other high-end performance cars of the same caliber, they are a relative bargain, but the Corvette is not an everyman car in the same way that a Ford Mustang is. Still, when it comes to American performance, the Corvette is the way to go.



Image: George Rose/Getty Images

The third generation Corvette, dubbed the C3, was in production from the 1968 model year all the way until 1982. From the mid-'70s until the '80s, C3s were hampered by emissions-strangled engines with low horsepower ratings and tired styling. Arguably, late C3 models were some of the worst 'Vettes ever made.

Early C3s are a different story entirely and are often included in the conversation about the best American cars ever produced. After all, the Corvette wasn't picked by astronauts for no reason. There is no shortage of late-'60s and early '70s Corvettes for sale and prices range from relatively inexpensive to six-figure prices.

But the real king of the third generation Corvettes is the Corvette L88. Chevy only made 216 L88 Corvettes over three model years. Just this week, a nicely preserved 1969 L88 Corvette sold for an astronomical \$631,000 at auction. For comparison, a new L88 Corvette cost \$6,500.

The secret performance 'Vette

L88 Corvettes were developed for racing and equipped with a 427 cubic inch V8. It was actually developed discretely as General Motors' corporate policy didn't allow for competition-focused vehicles. The power rating was understated by the factory and the engine was supposed to be relegated to "off-road" use (via Bring a Trailer). In addition to the monstrous engine, the L88 'Vettes came with a rear sway bar and heavy-duty suspension.

Much like the racing-focused Dodge SRT Demons and Porsche 911s of today, the L88 took the saying "less is more" and ran with it. Factory Corvettes with the L88 package didn't include power steering, air-conditioning, or a radio. It was a serious performance machine. L88s also sported a decal near the gear shift lever stating the 103-octane fuel was required.

With its rarity and insane specs, it's no wonder L88s command such high prices at auction. In an age where every performance car gets dozens of teasers and entire press conferences, it's odd to see a car that took a more hush-hush approach.



Image: Chevrolet

Ever Wonder Why Your Car's Shifter Goes P-R-N-D? Here's the Reason

For starters, the US government says so.

By Will Sabel Courtney for Gear Patrol at <https://www.gearpatrol.com/cars/a733349/automatic-transmission-shifter-p-r-n-d/>

If your car has an automatic transmission, the different positions you can shift into follow a specific pattern: P-R-N-D, usually followed by either a couple of lower gear options or the chance to shift it into a manual control mode. In case you've never driven (or, somehow, only driven cars with manual transmissions, in which place, god bless you), those four letters stand for Park, Reverse, Neutral and Drive — or, in layman's terms, Stopped, Backwards, Free-Rolling and Forwards.



Image: Audi

You've probably shifted from Park to Drive a hundred thousand times, and from Drive to Reverse nearly as many. But in all those times, have you ever stopped to wonder: Gee, why is it that every car's shifter seems to go from Reverse to Neutral to Drive?

Well, there's actually a very good reason: the United States government says so.

Older shifters used a P-N-D-L-R arrangement

When the automatic transmission was young, carmakers would often set up their own shifters however they damn well felt like it. One common layout, found in General Motors and Chrysler models, among others, placed Reverse at the far end of the shifter, past Neutral, Drive and the lower gears. In one sense, it made sense; after all, you want Reverse to be easy to find, so why not put it at the very end of the shifter?

The problem that arose, however, was one of user error: people attempting to shift into a low forward gear would wind up overshooting into Reverse without realizing it, or vice versa. Given the mass of, say, a '59 Eldorado, traveling suddenly in the wrong direction could result in very unpleasant consequences for any persons, animals or objects that happened to be in the way.

Ralph Nader noted that the old P-N-D-L-R arrangement was unsafe

It took none other than noted safety advocate Ralph Nader to help bring the problems with this arrangement to light. In the second chapter of his seminal book **Unsafe at Any Speed**, Nader raised five ripped-from-the-headlines examples of death, injury and destruction caused by the poor design of this P-N-D-L-R shift arrangement.

"It takes no science and little foresight to accurately condemn a particularly dangerous transmission shift pattern — the P N D L R quadrant common to Cadillacs, Buicks, Oldsmobiles, Pontiacs, Studebakers and Ramblers over the past ten years," he wrote. "The driver is forced to look at the shift lever for confirmation of the gear in use. The driver has to lift the lever to go into reverse. Should he not lift it enough, the car will remain in forward low while the driver is looking backwards and expecting the car to move in that direction."

Some modern push-button automatics, like the Lincoln Navigator pictured here, have done away with the selection lever — but if anything, it's even harder to accidentally mis-select a mode.

Placing Neutral between Drive and Reverse was safer

Sticking neutral between forward and reverse, Nader said, was a commonly-accepted trait of mechanical design in things like mechanical tools. But the design of the Hydra-matic transmission used in these models made it cheaper to put reverse next to the forward cogs, according to an automotive transmission engineer Nader cited; while that obstacle was gone by 1956, GM reportedly stood by it — using the rather circular reasoning that, in effect, there were already too many cars on the road using the P-N-D-L-R setup to stop using it now.

As with encouraging the adoption of safety belts, Nader's outspoken advocacy wound up getting results. While America's domestic carmakers all came around to the superior design of putting neutral between Reverse and Drive by 1966, by 1971, it had become part of federal law in the form of U.S. Department of Transportation Standard No. 102: *"Location of transmission shift positions on passenger cars. A neutral position shall be located between forward drive and reverse drive positions."*

P-R-N-D has lingered even as mechanical gear shifters are going away

The recent return of pushbutton transmission selectors and the arrival of electronic gearshifts means that carmakers have a tad more flexibility than they once did, in terms of control layouts. Honda and Lincoln's pushbutton shifters arrange its choices vertically; GMC's stretches them out horizontally; Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Hyundai and Ford, among others, make Park a separate button to seek out. But the heart of the rule remains in effect: if you want to shift from Drive to Reverse or vice versa, you have to make a stop in Neutral.



Now, some exotic cars with single-clutch and dual-clutch automated manual transmissions, like Ferrari, Lamborghini and McLaren, arrange things even more differently — but that seems to be because they do without a “Park” or, in some cases, even a “Drive.” (Ferraris, for example, only offer buttons for reverse and manual modes; neutral is obtained by pulling both paddle shifters at once, and Park occurs automatically when the car is turned off.) But again, the spirit of the law remains in play: it's very hard to accidentally shift into Reverse when you mean to go forward.

What Does the Corvette Logo Mean?

The Chevrolet Corvette is one of the most iconic sports cars in automotive history. But what does its logo mean?

By Joe Santos for Motor Biscuit at <https://www.motorbiscuit.com/corvette-logo-mean/>

The Chevrolet Corvette is one of the most iconic and revered sports cars of our time. It's been in the market since the 1950s, and we can't imagine that it will be going away soon — especially since an EV model is set to arrive in the future. What's almost just as iconic as the car itself is its logo — which features a pair of flags and symbols. But what does the logo mean?

A brief history of the Corvette logo

In order to understand what the Chevrolet Corvette logo means, we'll need to take a little trip down memory lane. The original logo was designed in the early 1950s by Robert Bartholomew, the interior designer



Image: Chesnot/Getty Images

for the first Corvette model. Core 77 reports that Bartholomew's first design featured two crossed flags: A checkered flag that symbolized race victory and an American flag to symbolize patriotism.

However, the legal department soon got involved and nixed the American flag idea because it was illegal to use it on a commercially-made product. Bartholomew then went back to the drawing board. This time, he used the Chevrolet Motor Car Company's founder and Frenchman, Louis-Joseph Chevrolet, as his inspiration.



Image: John Keeble/Getty Images

Chevrolet's French roots seemed like a good starting point, so Bartholomew set out to find Chevrolet's coat of arms or family crest, which he could use for the logo. After coming up short, the fleur-de-lis (the flower of the lily) was chosen to signify the founder's French descent instead. The three lines below the symbol represent the three Chevrolet brothers.

The Corvette emblem changed over the years

The Chevrolet Corvette emblem has changed over the past few decades, but the changes were minor. The first revision saw enlarged versions of the flags and the elimination of the white background. Later on, Chevy got rid of the words "Chevrolet" and "Corvette," substituting the word "Stingray" to coincide with the Mako Shark concept car in 1963. The circles were dropped, and the two flags were emphasized more.

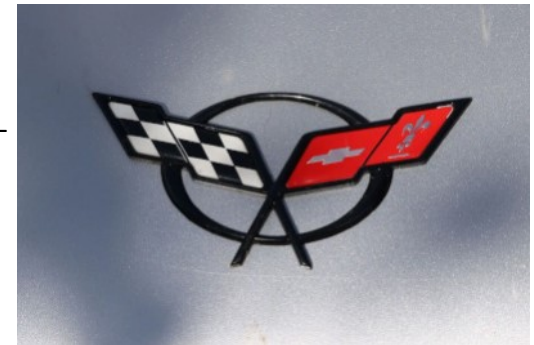


Image: Beata Zawrzel/NurPhoto

Hot Cars reports that the Corvette logo went through a more dramatic change from the 1980s up to 1996. For this time period, the circular frame reappeared, the flag poles disappeared, and the fleur-de-lis was emitted as well. This time, the checkered flag was featured on the right side of the emblem, with the Chevy bow tie on the left.

In 1997, for the C5 Corvette, the fleur-de-lis showed up again next to the Chevy logo, as did the flag poles. For the subsequent C6 Corvette, Chevrolet removed the flagpoles again and incorporated a more modern V-shaped design. The badge used for the C7 Corvette utilized sharper lines and edges for a sleeker look.

And lastly, the current badge on the C8 Corvette looks a lot like its predecessor, but it is a little smaller.

Will the Corvette logo change in the future?

Considering Chevrolet has already teased images of the forthcoming 2025 Corvette EV, we can only assume that the American automaker will change the logo again. Maybe it will have lightning or electric shocks incorporated into it. Either way, we're willing to bet that the checkered flag and fleur-de-lis symbol won't be removed. After, they're an important part of the logo's history.



Image: Atilgan Ozdil/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

From the Editor

NICC Editor: Preston Morgan

Elves have always fascinated me. Typically elves are associated with Christmas helping Santa make all those toys that are delivered to good boys and girls (I have a huge pile of coal that I have collected over the years). But elves are everywhere. Those supernatural humanoids can appear where you least expect it and cause either chaos or bring good cheer. If you live right, those little beings can create smiles and good will. I'm not sure that I fall into that side of the elf equilibrium. With that being said, I like elves and the folklore that goes with them. I wish all of you many elves of good luck and fortune. And to all NICC members, Merry Christmas!



6 Amazing Facts About Elves

From Interesting Facts at <https://www.interestingfacts.com/elf-facts/Y4-YutQzDwAl3GWF>

Elves take many forms. For starters, there's the diminutive, pointy-eared elf that often appears in fairy tales. In fantasy literature like J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and many role-playing games, elves are human-sized, willowy, and wise. In Northern European folklore, they're clever, supernatural tricksters.



Image: Dean Clarke/Shutterstock

Each December, however, the hardworking, friendly elves under the employ of Santa Claus reign supreme. When Yuletide rolls around, it's only natural to have elves on the brain. But do you know how those mischievous sprites became Christmas helpers? Or why should you be cautious around a dancing elf? Get in the holiday spirit with these six interesting facts about elves.

1. Early Elves Were Mischief Makers

The concept of elves got its start in Northern Europe, from early Norse mythology to the Germanic folklore of the Middle Ages. Elf myths varied by region, and were often told in conjunction with fairy folklore. While some elves were benevolent, more often than not they were volatile troublemakers.



Image: Science History Images/Alamy Stock Photo

Illnesses, both human and animal, were often pinned on elves, as were bad dreams — supposedly, elves caused them by sitting on the sleeper. (The German word for nightmare, *alpdrücken*, translates literally to “elf pressure.”) They were even rumored to steal babies. While helpful elves sometimes worked their way into the mythology, early elves were certainly a far cry from the cheery toy manufacturers that came to dominate modern wintertime folklore.

2. Dancing Figured Prominently in Elf Mythology

In Scandinavian mythology, elves are typically portrayed as powerful, supernatural beings, and they often used music and dancing as a way to enchant and ensnare humans — like in the story of *The Elf-Woman and Sir Olaf*. In the tale, a knight stumbles into the elf world the day before his wedding and encounters elf maidens dancing. He's asked to join the dance but refuses. As a result, he dies, although the ending differs in the story's many variations. Another ballad, called “*Elvehøj*,” has a happier ending: Elf maidens attempt to draw him into dances that would permanently bind him to the elf world, but they're ultimately unsuccessful.



Image: Florilegius/Alamy Stock Photo

Still another legend tells of the Elf-king's tune: When a fiddler plays the song, it compels everyone in earshot, including inanimate objects, to dance. The fiddler can't stop playing once the song has begun, unless he or she can play backwards, or someone cuts the fiddle's strings. These dance themes continue in later Scandinavian texts, such as Hans Christian Andersen's 1845 tale *The Elf Mound*, which describes elf maidens performing dances to impress party guests.

3. Christmas Elves First Emerged in the 19th Century

It wasn't until the 1800s that elves began to be associated with Christmas. One of the earliest references was Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (more commonly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," from its first line), which described Santa himself as a "jolly old elf." In 1856, Little Women author Louisa May Alcott wrote a short story called "Christmas Elves" — but that story was never published, so it didn't popularize the concept.



Image: Buyenlarge/Archive Photos via Getty Images

Nonetheless, the concept of Santa's elves had certainly entered the cultural lexicon by the 1870s, when other works started mentioning elves. A December 1873 issue of *Godey's Lady Book* — a highly influential women's magazine that also helped popularize the Christmas tree as a tradition in America — led with an image of Santa's workshop, complete with his elf helpers.

4. J.R.R. Tolkien Preferred the Middle English Word "Elven" Instead of "Elfin"

When J.R.R. Tolkien wrote his famous *Lord of the Rings* series, "elven" was considered an obsolete Middle English word. According to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), it was originally a noun that meant "female elf," or simply "elf." When Tolkien wrote the series, "elfish" or "elfin," which had its first print appearance in 1590, were the terms used to describe "having to do with elves."



Image: Haywood Magee/Picture Post via Getty Images

Tolkien, also well known for his expertise in language and folklore, deliberately used "elven" and "elvish" instead, which became somewhat of a headache when it came time to proofread *The Fellowship of the Ring*. "*The impertinent compositors have taken it upon themselves to correct, as they suppose, my spelling and grammar,*" Tolkien wrote to his son in August 1953, "altering throughout 'dwarves' to 'dwarfs'; 'elvish' to 'elfish'... and worst of all, 'elven' — to 'elfin.'"

To this day, neither Merriam-Webster nor Dictionary.com recognizes "elven" as a word, although Merriam-Webster recognizes "elvish." The OED says that "elvish" specifically refers to elves as they're described in Tolkien's books, though the word has also become popular in other elf-related fantasy circles.

5. The Elf on a Shelf Tradition Started With a Self-Published Book

The Elf on a Shelf is a Christmas season ritual in which a parent hides a "Scout Elf" doll each morning for kids to find. The idea is that the elf watches the family, reports back to Santa at night if the kids have been naughty or nice, and then sets up in a different spot in the home for the next day.



Image: Dean Clarke/Shutterstock

This now-ubiquitous Christmas tradition dates to 2005, when a mother and her twin daughters pitched the idea for a book based on their own family ritual. After they were rejected by publishers, the trio took out credit cards and dipped into retirement funds to self-publish the book *The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition*, which came with an elf for the reader's own shelf. It was a runaway success, and over the next 15 years, more than 14.5 million Scout Elves were sold as the practice became a regular part of Christmas for families all over the world. The design of what's now known as a "Scout Elf" is much older than the tradition itself. It bears a striking resemblance to the "knee-hugger" elves of the 1950s and 1960s; perhaps one of these was the family's original elf.

6. One Elf in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" Lacks a Notable Feature-

There's much that sets Hermey the Misfit Elf apart from the rest of his North Pole co-workers in the 1964 animated TV special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. The most obvious and central to the plot is that he wants to be a dentist rather than manufacture toys. He also appears to be the only junior employee with a visible hairstyle — a stylish, swoopy blond mop.



Image: Historic Collection/Alamy Stock Photo

But another feature sets Hermey apart that you may not have noticed: He does not have the pointy ears typically associated with elves. The other assembly workers, and even the gruff, goateed factory supervisor, all have pointy ears. Once you notice they are missing, it's hard to unsee it, especially since his actual ears are quite small and rounded.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL NICC MEMBERS

From

Preston and Nina Morgan



CONTEST HAS ENDED!

VETTE VISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2023 “Every Picture Tells a Story”

This is a fun contest open to all NICC members. The rules are simple and professional photography skills not needed. A panel of judges who are not members of the NICC will select winning pictures. Prizes will be awarded to three entries. Decisions of the judges are final. Please be safe and responsible when taking pictures. Capture the memories and have fun! Where will you take *Vette Visions* in 2023?

Rules

The image **must** include a copy of *Vette Visions* conspicuously visible.

Include a landmark or sign that identifies the location.

Blurry images will not be accepted.

Your Corvette does not have to be pictured, however, extra points will be awarded if a Corvette is included (Corvette does not have to belong to member).

Provide a brief description of the location, people, and any interesting information associated with the image.

Multiple images from the same member are welcomed.

Member must be in good standing with the NICC.

Ensure the safety and well being of all involved and be respectful of other people and their property.

Entries must be submitted by **November 30, 2023**.

Submission of Entries:

Entries may be submitted using the following methods.

Images can be emailed to the NICC Editor at editor@nicccorvette.com or directly to preston.morgan06@yahoo.com.

All images submitted become the property of the NICC and can be used for public relations and other purposes. The Editor reserves the right to modify the image (cropping, resolution, etc.) without materially modifying the scope and purpose in order to prepare it for publication. All entries are posted on the NICC website.

Below are images entered in the 2023 photography contest.



Dale at Southernmost Point, Key West, Florida.



Ken & Cindy jailed for reading the newsletter.



Preston watches SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launch into space to deploy 23 satellites.



Linda at Glen Canyon Dam, Page, Arizona.

NICC Vette Visions

Northern Illinois Corvette Club, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the promotion of **Corvette** ownership and operation.

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.

NICC is a 100% member club of the National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC). Membership is limited to owners of Corvettes.

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*(spouse, dependent, companion)

NCCC Lifetime members are only required to pay NICC dues. For more information on the NICC and NCCC go to their websites at the links below.

VETTE VISIONS, NICC's newsletter, is published monthly on our website and a publication notice is e-mailed to all members, advertisers and Corvette enthusiasts who have provided us with their email address and have expressed an interest in our publication. Materials submitted and published in **VETTE VISIONS** are believed to be accurate and NICC assumes no legal responsibilities of correctness.

The club's mailing address is:

Northern Illinois Corvette Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 2004
Loves Park, Illinois 61130-0004

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Northern Illinois Corvette Club www.nicccorvette.com
Midwest Region (of NCCC) www.mwregion.com
National Council of Corvette Clubs www.corvettesnccc.org
National Corvette Museum www.corvettemuseum.com

NOTE

When sending emails to NICC members, ALWAYS put "NICC" in the subject. Most of us do not open messages we do not recognize.

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editor@nicccorvette.com or
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Text file formats are best in .doc, .docx, .rtf or .txt, and photos in .jpg, .jpeg, .png or .bmp files. Thank you.

DEADLINE for all Reports, Items, Advertising, and Articles in EACH issue is the FRIDAY following the monthly meeting.

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