



50 Years

VETTE
Visions

January 2024

The official Newsletter of the Award Winning

Northern Illinois Corvette Club

Happy New Year!

Another year has passed, I believe we had a very successful year completing many projects. I would like to thank all those that volunteered their time for the club. We are all volunteers and must continue moving the club forward.



President's
Corner

We had several board members step down from positions for various reasons, but we have several members step up and fill these spots. Traci Hill will now be Webmaster as well as the Media Director and Linda Stimart will be her back up. Mike Lenth will be Sargent-of-Arms and Leon Gorsch will be Parade Director and Membership Director. I personally want to thank the Board members that are doing double duty to help fill the positions that opened at the end of 2023. I am also asking all members to step up and help these members when they ask for volunteers.

We had a wonderful time during the Holiday Party on December 16th. There were 25 members enjoying tasty food, great conversation, and a wonderful game of "Present Pong" with some very nice gifts. Please see the article in our newsletter that described the great time we had together. A huge "thank you" to Sherry Putnam for hosting the event.

As you will see on the schedule of events for 2024, it's going to be a fun year. There are activities that should spark interest for all members. Sign up or better yet volunteer, get involved and enjoy with the other members. Remember this is your club, get involved and enjoy the time that we have

together.

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

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

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

John M. Stupiec

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



HAPPY
New Year
2024

Contents

Schedules.....	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Meeting Minutes.....	4-6
Governor's Report	7
Bachrodt	8
Vette Ventures	9-10
Event Flyers	11-12
Holiday Party Party	13-14
Photo Contest Awards.....	15-16
Corvette Trivia (Part I).....	16
Sting Ray not Stingray.....	17
4 Fast Corvettes	18-19
Best C8.....	19-22
Corvette Trivia (Part II).....	22
From the Editor.....	23-25
About NICC & VetteVisions...	26
VV Garage Sale.....	27
Advertisers & Sponsors.....	28-31

Love Vettes. Have Fun. Give Back!

January 2024

2024 - Membership and Board Meetings				
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	
Oct	2	5:00 PM - Board Meeting		
		6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	
Nov	6	6:00 PM - Social Hour	7:00 PM - Meeting	

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

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

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

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

editor@nicccorvette.com

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

Jan	NO EVENTS SCHEDULED				
Feb	4	Sun	3:15 PM	Bowling Party & Dinner	Ken & Cindy
Mar	9 or 16	Sat	TBD	Wine Tasting	Need Host(s)
Apr	6	Sat	10:00 AM	Perryville Road Cleanup	Need Volunteers
	6	Sat	5:00 PM	MWR Banquet	Madison, WI
	27	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 17	Woodward Dream Cruize, Oakland County, MI	website
August ??	Vettes on the River, LeClaire, IA	website
August 22-24	Corvettes at Carlisle, Carlisle, PA	website

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

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



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



Important Club Member Dates

Birthdays

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

A FarmersAlmanac.com Philosofact

January

Jim Millikin
Judy Webster
Craig Meiter
Mindy Reiman

February

Linda Stimart
Jeanette Hansen
Carolyn Samuelson

Wedding Anniversaries



January

Jerry & Darlene Weaver
Steve & Dana Stadel

February

Jim & Terra Naumowich
Michael & Mindy Reiman

VETTE QUOTES (New Years Version)

"Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year make a resolution to be yourself."

Unknown

"Write it on your heart that everyday is the best day in the year."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"He who breaks a resolution is a weakling. He who makes one is a fool."

F. B. Knowles

"New Year = New Life! Decide today who you will become, what you will give how you will live."

Anthony Robbins

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."

David Bowie

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."

Michael Altshuler

"No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again."

Buddha

"You know how I always dread the whole year. Well this time I'm only going to dread one day at a time."

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

NICC Minutes

January 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes - Unapproved

1. Opening and Call to Order:

The NICC Monthly Membership meeting was called to order by John Stupiec at 7:02 p.m. with 19 members present in the meeting room and three on Zoom for a total of 22 members in attendance.

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

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

3. Introduction of Guests: There were no guests in attendance tonight.

4. Minutes: A motion was made by Dale Samuelson to approve the December, 2024 minutes and was seconded by Ken Starzyk. The motion was approved.

5. Monthly Reports:

President – John Stupiec: No report.

Governor – Dale Samuelson: See Dale's full report in the January NICC newsletter. The MWR Banquet is on April 6th. For reservations please go to the MWR website. The Convention week in Joplin is May 13-19. Registration opens for this on January 15th. Check the MWR website for more information and the activities.

Secretary – Cindy Starzyk: No report.

Treasurer – Louise Gorsch: Louise distributed the NICC Budget Cash Flow Table for December, 2023. A motion to approve the December Cash Flow Report was made by Barb Johnson and seconded by Doris Hicks. The motion was approved.

Membership – Leon Gorsch: We have 68 members presently. One year ago we had 75. The loss of members over time tends to be the younger people who come and go. The older members have been in the club for many years. In 2007 NICC had 173 members! Ken Starzyk confirmed that Bachrodt is still offering a free one-year NICC membership with the purchase of a Corvette at their dealership.

Parliamentarian – Doris Hicks: No report.

Historians - Nancy Bailey and Carolyn Samuelson, Absent.

NCM Ambassador – Sherry Putnam: No report.

Sunshine Club Chair - Doris Hicks: No report.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Lenth: Mike collected \$4 for name badge fines.

Editor - Preston Morgan: On Zoom. Articles for the January newsletter are due by Friday, January 5th. An exciting new column coming to the newsletter is that of Traci Hill in which she will be enticing you with ideas about cool, unique places to go to on runs in the future with sights and establishments that you will definitely want to explore! You are welcome to contribute to this section as well with your ideas.

Social Director – Debbie Schaefer, Absent.

Quartermaster - Barb Johnson: No report.

Advertising – Ken Starzyk: Ken wishes to have a representative from one or more of our charities go with him when he approaches prospective supporters/advertisers. This may be much more effective than his approaching them alone.

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

Webmaster – Traci Hill: On Zoom: Traci will report under New Business.

Parade Director – Leon Gorsch: July 4th is the Winnebago Parade and will be run by Dan & Kris Bomgarden. They will host a picnic after the parade. This parade will be about 20 blocks long.

Media Director – Traci Hill: On Zoom. Instagram seems to be the most eye-catching media. When the new website is up we will possibly have more hits.

6. Old Business:

- a. Holiday Party – This was very fun, creative and organized. The food from Portillo's was wonderful!
- b. Budget Review – See New Business for budget approval.
- c. Tailgate Party – This was also very enjoyable with great food! Barb and Don will host again next year.
- d. Campaign for New Members – Although Leon is open to new ideas, the best ways to attract new members at this time are to approach people and/or distribute the NICC postcard-sized information cards. Leon gave more cards to members who asked for them. Some NICC business cards were also distributed.

7. New Business:

- a. Budget Approval for 2024 (vote) – A motion was made by Ken Starzyk to allow NICC to pay for a one-year NICC membership with the sale of a Corvette at Lou Bachrodt. The motion was seconded by Dale Samuelson. The motion was approved. A motion to approve the 2024 budget was made by Barb Johnson and seconded by Doris Hicks. The motion was approved.
- b. New Website -Traci Hill and Linda Stimart will meet again on January 15th with the web designer. Among other details, they will discuss a "Members Only" page, creation of a Gmail account, and making the site user-friendly.
- c. Activities for 2024 – Cindy Starzyk has sent the most updated calendar for 2024 activities to all members. The date of this calendar is January 3, 2024
- d. Spring Run, Ken Starzyk – Lake Geneva –This run will be on Wednesday, May 22nd. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Please sign up by January 31st by contacting Ken at 815 222-0281. Ken explained that we will do a boat tour at 11:30 -2:00 with lunch served onboard. There is a cash bar on the boat. Tour payments can be made later to Ken. The cost will be approximately \$60 per person. More details will be forthcoming.
- e. Fall Run – Open.
- f. Walkie Talkies for Runs – We now have walkie talkies for our runs. Ken Starzyk is the custodian of these.
- g. Sign up for the Sunday, February 4th Bowling Party. Members can sign up before January 31st by contacting Cindy Starzyk at 815 222-2848. A sign-up sheet was distributed at the meeting tonight.
- h. Summer Run to Colorado Springs (July 21-27) – Barb Johnson handed out a list with hotel information and contact information of those who have signed up for the run.

8. Photo Contest: Using Power Point, Preston Morgan exhibited and discussed interesting information about several of the photos that were submitted, and the winners of the 2023 contest. Third place winners were Linda and Gene Stimart, second place victors were Louise and Leon Gorsch, and first place winners were Cindy and Ken Starzyk. Check the January newsletter to see what the prize-winning photos look like! Prizes were awarded to all the champions. A huge thank you goes out to Preston and Nina Morgan for all their hard work on this very fun, full-year activity and for presenting the winners in such a fun and interesting way!

9. New Cars: None

10. Collection of Fines: \$4

11. 50/50 Raffle: The amount was \$32.50 and Bob Rogers won.

12. Attendance Drawing: \$10.00 – Preston Morgan won. Louise will get a check to him. Next month - \$10.00.

Adjournment: 8:05 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Sherry Putnam and seconded by Ken Starzyk. The motion was approved.

Next Club Monthly Meeting:
February 7th, 2024
Social hour 6:00
Member meeting at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Cindy Starzyk

Cindy Starzyk

Just The Facts!

The first ball drops were designed for ship captains, not New Year's Eve.

Whether at home on the couch or among the crowds in Times Square, watching the New Year's Eve ball drop symbolizes a fresh start. But as the ball descends to mark another year gone by, it also harkens back to an era when knowing the exact time was much more difficult. Before the 20th century, timekeeping was significantly less precise; most people noted the time thanks to church bells that rang on the hour, though the system was often inaccurate. For sailors and ship captains, knowing the exact time was key for charting navigational courses, and they used a device called a chronometer to keep track of time onboard ships. That's why Robert Wauchope, a captain in the British Navy, created the time ball in 1829. The raised balls were visible to ships along the British coastline, and they were manually dropped at the same time each day, allowing ships to set their chronometers to the time at their port of departure. At sea, navigators would calculate longitude based on local time, which they could determine from the angle of the sun, and the time on their chronometer.

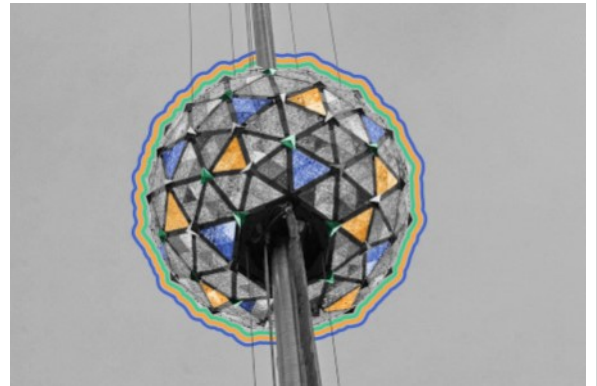


Image: RUETERS/Alamy Stock Photo



2010 Corvette Racing Le Mans 50th Anniversary
Image Credit: Chevrolet

NICC Governor's Report

Submitted by Dale Samuelson, Governor, NICC



The next Regional and National NCCC meetings will be in February, so this will be a short report.

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

Registration for the 2024 NCCC Convention in Joplin, Missouri will open on January 15th at 9:00 AM Central time. There will be two main hotels (The Joplin Holiday Inn and the LaQuinta) that share a common parking lot. Additionally, the Comfort Inn and Suites is available and is also a short walk away. Activities include a welcome party on Tuesday night with live music and the National awards banquet and live music on Wednesday night. Thursday night will feature a block party/car show and a live band in downtown Joplin. The downtown streets will be blocked off just for us! Friday night will be a pool party with live music. An awards ceremony will cap off the week on Saturday morning. The usual array of competitive events will include a rally, a low speed autocross, a poker run, and drag races. The valve cover races will take place Thursday night at the downtown block party. Tours include both an east and west narrated tour of route 66, a river-boat ride aboard the Branson Belle, a paint and sip session with a Route 66 theme, and more. Check the NCCC web site for the latest information: <https://www.corvettesnccc.org/2024Convention/Convention2024.php>. Feel free to call me with any questions.

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

Transmission: 6-Speed Automatic Paddle Shift

Clean CarFax

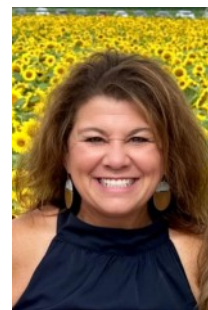
Retail Price: \$37,500

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

Attention: Any NICC member will receive an additional \$500 off if you mention this ad in *Vette Visions*. Call Joe Luy for details.



Welcome to a new little venture for our Vette Visions Newsletter! One thing we all know is that there is ALWAYS a reason to hop in those Corvettes and drive...and what better reason than to find great food, beverages, and unique spots to visit? The goal of this column will be to share some unique & different spots you might want to visit, grab a bite or beverage, and to share a bit about what makes them unique. If you have ideas you think we should visit & review – don't hesitate to send them our way & we'll do our best to add them to the spots we'll feature in future issues. (815)-298-3361



Corvettes, Cuisine, & Cocktails

The Ding-A-Ling Supper Club

8215 W. Race St. Orfordville, WI 53576

(608) 879-9209

By Traci Hill

Unassuming is the word that best describes The Ding-A-Ling Supper Club in Hanover, Wisconsin. On first pass, you might not even realize it's a restaurant, but the full parking lot and the first few steps in the door will clear that right up.

You'll likely get a "holler" from someone behind the bar welcoming you and asking if you've got reservations, and you totally should, as wait times can be lengthy on busy evenings. The 'Ding' as locals call it isn't large, and it's not fancy, but they have a knack for getting people in and out in an efficient manner. The bar and waitstaff are outstanding, and often stop to quickly chat and build relationships with those who visit – one of the unique things that make this supper club a spot people travel lengthy distances to visit.

It's well worth your time to arrive early enough to hop up to the bar and order a beverage. The Old Fashioned is a staple, and Kyla the owner will tell you "they mix em stiff" when you place your order for a mixed drink of any kind. But the locals generally have a beer in hand and if you follow their lead, it will likely be a Spotted Cow or a PBR.

While this is indeed a supper club, don't think it's necessary to dress up for this dinner. You'll find a range of anything from baseball caps to those fancy "supper clubbers" who visit in their fedoras. And everyone is welcomed and appreciated.

Once you've got a beverage in hand and your name is on the list for a table, you should definitely make conversation with those around you. You may be surprised how far people have traveled to visit, and the culture of the establishment encourages conversation, laughter, and treating everyone as your new best friend.

Once you score a table, it's time to make the most difficult decision of the night. Known for their steaks, the most expensive one on the menu, a 16 oz. filet mignon, comes in at just \$31.99, but you'll find a variety of steaks for every appetite and budget. Add to that their famous prime rib which comes in 3 different sizes with the most expensive option a 16 oz. king at \$26.99.



Steak not your thing? Their Friday night fish fry draws crowds from all over the Stateline and beyond on Friday nights. They also have a full seafood menu as well as chicken options, ribs, burgers, salads, and much more. And DO NOT miss the chance to start off the meal with a "Hanover Haystack", an onion ring plate that feeds the whole table with leftovers. But this is just one of their delicious appetizer options.

As is typical of Wisconsin supper clubs, you'll want to finish off your dinner with an after-dinner beverage. The Ding-A-Ling is well known for their frozen dessert drinks, but they also offer a variety of "amped up" coffee cocktails as well.

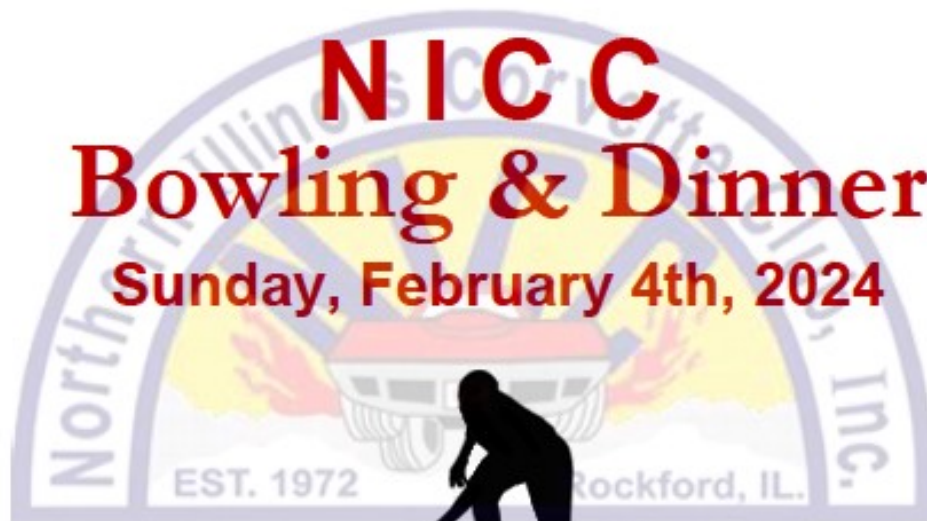
Be sure to check out the list of specials, as those draw in the crowds as well Tuesday through Sunday.

The Ding-A-Ling is definitely off the beaten path, which is always a great way to take that corvette out for a cruise. There are a variety of backroads options to reach this little gem, so it might even be fun to take one route on the way there, and choose a different route home.

If you have the chance to visit, be sure to let them know you read about them in the *Vette Visions* newsletter and post a picture of your Corvette in their parking lot on their Facebook Page! They love to hear from their customers and enjoy knowing you enjoyed time at their establishment.



N I C C Bowling & Dinner Sunday, February 4th, 2024



Park Lanes Bowl

5318 N. 2nd St., Loves Park (815) 399-0314

3:15 – 5:15 P.M.

Sign up at the January 3rd meeting, or by texting or calling Cindy by Wednesday, January 31st (815) 222-2848.

We will bowl two games. The cost will be \$11.50 per person.

If you need to rent shoes, pay \$4.50 for shoes at the desk at the bowling alley.

(Please call Cindy if you sign up but then can't make it)



We will meet for dinner after bowling at:

Backyard Grill & Bar

6473 N. 2nd St. Loves Park
Phone: (815) 636-9430



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)

2023 NICC Holiday Party

Submitted by Cindy Starzyk and Sherry Putnam Photos by Cindy Starzyk

A very merry time was had at Sherry Putnam's place on Saturday, December 16th. Twenty-five people attended. The fun, food and libations began at 5:30 with great conversation and many wishes for a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Sherry arranged to have the party catered by Portillo's. The menu consisted of Italian beef, mostaccioli, wonderful salad and of course that famous Portillo's chocolate cake!

After partaking in the delicious food everyone gathered to play a game of "Present Pong". Guests had to bounce the ping pong ball into a solo cup, which was challenging for all. Players were permitted to take a gift (everyone won!) and some could "steal" a gift from someone else. Laughter continued throughout the entire time and the gifts were very nice. There were gift cards, Corvette car organizers, travel mugs, and other really wonderful, useful items. The "Booby Prize" was awarded to Jim and Terra Naumowich, who didn't know about the history of it yet. Mike Lenth made a deal to trade the gift he had won for the Booby Prize!

Thank you to the Holiday party team for all their time and hard work that made this NICC event such a success. The committee consisted of Debbie, Louise and Sherry. A special thanks goes to Sherry and John for hosting it.





https://www.freepik.com/free-psd/happy-new-year-2024-text-effect_63587009.htm#query=new%20year%202024&position=1&from_view=keyword&track=ais&uuiid=d1095813-e947-41b4-a2d9-fe320d5ca90e Image by vxvector on Freepik

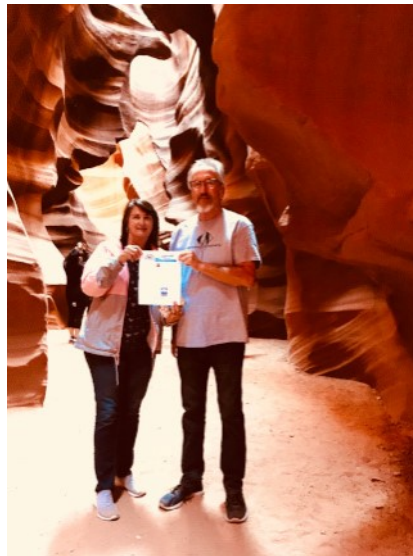
VETTE VISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2023

“Every Picture Tells a Story”

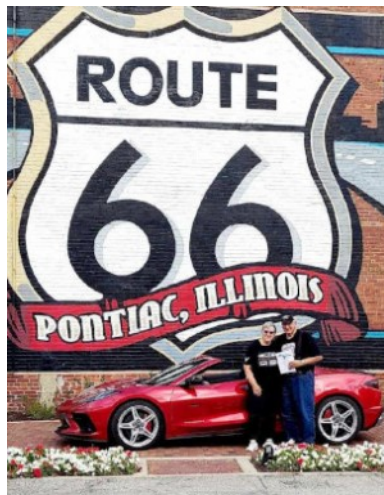
Vette Visions thanks all NICC members for their support and participation in the photography contest during 2023. Because of the active member participation in this contest, *Vette Visions* has traveled from the gulf coast of Florida to South America, through the deserts of Arizona and points in between. *Vette Visions* was packed into airplanes and traveled across the ocean. Because of NICC members, *Vette Visions* has traveled great distances, but unfortunately, is not eligible for any travel reward programs.

There were more than 50 entries from 12 members. There was one NICC group photo of those attending the National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC) convention. *Vette Visions* wishes every entry could win a prize. After all, “Every Picture Tells a Story.” *Vette Visions* is sure that there are a ton of interesting stories behind each and every picture submitted for the contest. However, only three prizes are available to be awarded. Therefore, the following entrants were selected by our panel of judges as prize winners.

Third place goes to Gene and Linda Stimart for the picture of them hiking through Antelope Canyon located in Arizona.



Second place was awarded to Leon and Louise Gorsch for the picture of them posing with their Corvette in front of the Route 66 mural located in Pontiac, Illinois.



First place goes to a couple of NICC members who traveled the world during 2023 but more importantly took *Vette Visions* along for the ride. Ken and Cindy Starzyk were selected for the picture of Ken reading the newsletter while safely operating a watercraft. It was confirmed that no lake life was harmed during the taking of this picture.



Vette Visions congratulates all the winners and extends a thank you to the independent panel of judges. All NICC members should keep taking pictures of your travels and submit them to Traci Hill for posting to social media and *Vette Visions* for publication in future issues. After all, "Every Picture Tells a Story" and your fellow NICC members are eager to learn about your story.

Corvette Trivia (Part I)

A limited production run of 300 Corvettes began in June 1953, after its successful debut as a concept vehicle at GM Motorama in New York City in January.

The Corvette has been built in three different places: Flint, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; and Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The first design team was led by Harley Earl. After WWII, he thought the US needed its own sports car and convinced GM to develop one.

The Z06 nameplate was originally an alpha-numeric order option code. The Z signified special packages and performance packages.

The 1965 Corvette was the first model year to offer a big block engine; the mighty 396-cubic-inch Turbo Jet V8.

Red is by far the most popular color in Corvette history, with totals approaching a quarter-million.

The first Corvette was offered in just a single color, in fact: Polo White with a red interior.

The 1968 model year saw a complete body redesign, and the removable T-tops and removable back window

When is a Corvette a Sting Ray and not a Stingray?

Brandon Gillogly for Haggerty at <https://www.haggerty.com/media/automotive-history/when-is-a-corvette-a-stingray-and-not-a-sting-ray/>



Image Credit: GM

Quick—is the 1968 Corvette above a Sting Ray or a Stingray? If you’re a Corvette enthusiast, you probably know the difference, right? Plenty of Vette fans, even those that aren’t owners, will be quick to correct you if you happen to use the incorrect phrase while debating the finer points of America’s Sports Car. May Zora Arkus-Duntov help you if you make that mistake on the wrong forum.

The “Sting Ray” moniker, two words, was first used on a production Corvette in 1963 for the second-generation cars, which featured a major front-end restyling compared to the first, along with a major chassis redesign and an independent rear suspension. 1963 also marked the first time a hardtop coupe was available in the Corvette lineup. The aquatic name had been previously applied to the XP-87 development car, which was dubbed the Stingray Racer. Its design would influence the XP-755 Mako Shark concept and, eventually, the production 1963 Sting Ray.

The third-generation Corvette debuted in 1968, with lines that evolved from the Mako Shark II concept from 1965 and Pontiac’s XP-833 from 1966. When the 1969 Corvette rolled out, it wore a few structural changes and only a few minor functional updates, including a new door-handle mechanism. It also wore script “Stingray” emblems on each fender—this time, one word. A Stingray badge would remain on Corvettes through 1976. In 1977, the Stingray name was gone, both from the car and from brochures, not to return until the seventh-generation Corvette in 2014.

The fact that Corvette wasn’t labeled with Stingray in 1968 has led many Vette fans to assume that ’68 models aren’t Stingrays, and they’re right. However, they are Sting Rays, as 1968 sales brochures show. Photo captions call the ’68 Corvette a “Sting Ray” just like the earlier second-gen cars, as does the body text. Of course, this muddies the waters a bit, as many fans accept Sting Ray as referring to second-generation Corvettes, but car nomenclature is full of one-year-only oddities and trivia like this. If these sorts of idiosyncrasies didn’t exist, we’d have to find other very important things to argue about, like which cars count as muscle cars or why Pontiac Trans Ams are cooler than Camaros.



1968 Chevrolet Corvette brochure by Brandon Gillogly

4 Fast Chevrolet Corvette Models That Won't Break the Bank

Unlike the new Chevrolet Corvette Z06, older performance-oriented trims can tick your fast Corvette boxes while also operating within your budget.

By Erik Sherman for MotorBiscuit at <https://www.motorbiscuit.com/4-fast-chevrolet-corvette-models-wont-break-bank/>

The Chevrolet Corvette has been “America’s sports car” for over 70 years. In that time, base model ‘Vettes captured enthusiasts’ attention and affection. However, some razor-sharp, performance-oriented trims took the “Plastic Fantastic” to the next level. Check out some of the best options for a fast Chevrolet Corvette that might not bust your budget, like the C5 Z06, C6 Z06, and C7 Corvette Stingray.

How much is a C4 Corvette ZR-1?

Depending on the mileage and model year, the C4 Chevrolet Corvette ZR-1 is still a performance bargain, despite its rising popularity. A 1995 ZR-1 has a typical listing price of around \$49,488. However, eager fans can find earlier models for closer to \$25,000.



Image Credit: General Motors

Moreover, with as much as 405 horsepower, the ZR-1’s all-aluminum V8 powerplant matched the later C5 Corvette Z06. Better yet, the Car and Driver says a 1990 model could dispose of a sprint to 60 mph in just 4.5 seconds, 0.1 seconds faster than a Ferrari F355 Berlinetta.



Is a C5 Z06 fast?

The Chevrolet Corvette Z06 from the C5 generation is the first production wedge ‘Vette to break the 4.0-second mark to 60 mph. Specifically, the later 2002 to 2004 C5 Z06 models had the potential to hit 60 in 3.9 seconds on their way to a 12.4-second quarter mile.

The C5 Z06’s savage speed is a 405-horsepower aluminum 5.7L V8 mill with a launch-happy 400 lb-ft of torque. Better yet, with a fair purchase price of \$23,456, the C5 Z06 is one of the best performance bargains on the market, regardless of make and model.

How much HP does a C6 Z06 have?

The Chevrolet Corvette C6 Z06 produces 505 horsepower and 470 lb-ft of torque from the largest-displacement motor in the namesake’s history: a tire-roasting 7.0L V8. The result of that monstrous, naturally aspirated mill? A sixth-generation Corvette Z06 will hit 60 min just 3.6 seconds.



Image Credit: General Motors

Moreover, a 2008 C6 Z06 has a fair value of around \$39,047 for a model with average mileage. Like the C5 version, the C6 Z06 is one of the most capable used performance cars at its price point. For instance, the 2023 BMW M240i xDrive, a new car with the same 0 to 60 mph time, starts at around \$48,895. Moreover, the C6 Z06 offers a manual transmission, a feature that modern performance cars like the M240i go without.

How much is a C7 Corvette Stingray?

While a used, base-model Chevrolet Corvette C7 Stingray isn’t at Toyota GR86 levels of affordability, it’s still a top performer at its price point. According to Kelley Blue Book (KBB), a 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray has a fair value of \$39,720.

Moreover, the C7 Stingray Z51 is the first base model Corvette to hit 60 mph in under 4.0 seconds. Specifically, a C7 with the Z51 package has the potential to hit 60 mph in around 3.8 seconds, granted the driver doesn't immolate the rear tires. While the supercharged C7 Z06 and ultra-rare ZR1 are still pricey, the C7 Stingray offers world-class performance at a reasonable sports car price point.

Z06, E-Ray, Or Stingray: Which Is The Best C8 Chevrolet Corvette?

By Ayush Arya for HotCars at <https://www.hotcars.com/z06-e-ray-stingray-best-c8-chevrolet-corvette/>

We compare the current line-up of the C8 Corvette to see which trim makes the most sense to buy and for whom.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The C8 Corvette lineup offers a range of options to suit different budgets and preferences, from the base Stingray to the hybrid E-Ray and the high-performance Z06.
- The Stingray is the most affordable option, starting at \$67,895, while the E-Ray and Z06 have higher price points, ranging from \$104,495 to \$132,845.
- The E-Ray offers the best fuel efficiency with its hybrid configuration, and the Z06 delivers the highest performance with its 670 hp V8 engine.



Image Credit: Chevrolet

The C8 Corvette is a firecracker. With a mid-engined layout, it stands as a tougher rival to its European counterparts - packing similar performance levels for nearly half the price. And with this eight-gen iteration, Chevrolet has made sure that there is a Corvette according to everyone's budget and liking.

The range starts with the Stingray, which gets a 490 hp naturally aspirated V8 and rear-wheel drive. Then you have the E-Ray, which, in a first for the Corvette, gets electrical assistance and all-wheel drive with a combined system output of 655 hp.

The hottest version of the C8 Corvette is the Z06. Besides a 670 hp flat plane crank V8, it gets a bunch of go-fast upgrades, which massively boosts its on-street and on-track performance.

But which one of these is the best? Is it the base Stingray, the hybrid E-Ray, or the howling Z06? Let's compare and find out.

2024 Chevrolet Corvette: Specs

Variant	Stingray	E-Ray	Z06	
Manufacturer	General Motors (Chevrolet)	General Motors (Chevrolet)	General Motors (Chevrolet)	
Production Years	2020 - present	2023 - present	2022 - present	
Configuration	V8	V8 + Electric Motor	V8	
Displacement	6.2-liter	6.2-liter	5.5-liter	
Power	490 hp	655 hp (combined)	670 hp	

Torque	470 lb-ft	470 lb-ft (V8) / 125 lb-ft (electric motor)	460 lb-ft
Fuel	Gas	Gas	Gas
Noteworthy Applications	C8 Corvette Stingray	C8 Corvette E-Ray	C8 Corvette Z06

The Stingray gets a 6.2-liter naturally aspirated pushrod V8. The engine cranks out 490 hp and 370 lb-ft of torque. An eight-speed dual-clutch automatic is standard, sending power to the rear wheels. Chevrolet offers an optional Z51 performance package for the Stingray, which increases the 6.2-liter LT2's power output to 495 hp.

It also unlocks a handful of other upgrades, such as a limited-slip rear differential, more powerful brakes, aggressive tires, revised suspension tuning, better cooling, and additional aero. The result is an entry-level Stingray with supercar performance levels - reaching 60 mph in 2.8 seconds and crossing the quarter mile in 11.1 seconds.

The E-Ray also gets the same 6.2-liter LT2 V8 as the Stingray, with the power output dialed up to the full 495 hp. The gas-powered motor drives the rear wheels through an eight-speed auto. But unlike the Stingray, a 160 hp electric motor is also part of the setup. It drives the front axle, making the C8 E-Ray the first all-wheel drive corvette.



Image Credit: Chevrolet

The electrical assistance gives the Corvette E-Ray a total system output of 655 hp. 470 lb-ft of torque is sent to the rear wheels by the gas-powered V8, while 125 lb-ft goes to the front axle by the electric motor. At 2.5 seconds, the E-Ray is quicker to 60 MPH than the Stingray.

The Z06 sits at the top of the C8's line-up. It gets a new 5.5-liter V8 with a flat-plane crank. Apart from 670 hp and 460 lb-ft of torque, this engine produces a wild howling sound that'll even turn the heads of the most loyal Ferrari fans.

0 to 60 MPH comes in 2.6 seconds in the Z06, faster than the Stingray but 0.1 seconds slower than the E-Ray. Power goes to the rear wheels through an eight-speed automatic. You can make the Z06 even more track-focused by adding the Z07 package, which unlocks more aggressive aero, stickier Michelin rubber, and stronger brakes.

The E-Ray Will Promise The Best MPGs Across C8 Corvette's Line-Up

As you'd expect, the fuel economy for the V8-powered C8's line-up isn't impressive. EPA rates the Stingray for 16 MPG in the city, 24 MPG on the highway, and 19 MPG combined. The Z06 performs worse in this area, with a rating of 12 MPG in the city, 21 MPG on the highway, and 15 MPG combined.



Image Credit: Chevrolet

Though EPA hasn't released the official fuel-economy ratings for the 2024 Corvette E-Ray, they are likely to be the highest among all the trims. This hybrid Vette gets a 1.1 kWh battery pack, which allows for electric-only driving for short distances at speeds lower than 45 mph, which should also help boost its EPA rating.

The Stingray Is The Most Affordable C8 Corvette
2024 Chevrolet Corvette: Price

C8 Corvette Trim	2024 MSRP	
Stingray	\$67,895 - \$86,645	
E-Ray	\$104,495 - \$111,295	
Z06	\$112,295 - \$132,845	

Prices for the Corvette Stingray kick off at \$67,895 for the entry-level 1LT coupe and \$74,895 for the 1LT convertible. They stretch to \$79,645 for the top-spec 3LT coupe and \$86,645 for the 3LT convertible - making Stingray the most affordable in C8's line-up.

The E-Ray coupe is available for \$104,495, while you'll have to dish out \$111,295 for its convertible version.

The Z06 is the most expensive Corvette, starting at \$112,295 for the 1LZ coupe and \$119,295 for the 1LZ convertible. These top off at \$125,845 for the 3LZ coupe and \$132,845 for the 3LZ convertible.

These prices are still a long way off from the current-gen Corvette's competitors, such as the Ferrari 296 GTB (\$343,000) and the McLaren Artura (\$238,000).

Which C8 Chevrolet Corvette Should You Buy?

Between the Stingray, E-Ray, and the Z06, which trim of the C8 should you pick? Jason from the Front Seat Driver YouTube channel might have a solution we'd all agree on. In his latest video, he talks about the big differences between the current C8's line-up from behind the wheel of his friend Justin's Z06.



Image Credit: Chevrolet

While the Z06 is the wildest Corvette currently on sale, the E-Ray and the Stingray each have their own merits. As Justin explains in the video, the Z06 is for someone who drives the Corvette occasionally and drives it hard. It packs in insane levels of performance, which the base Stingray doesn't provide.

While the E-Ray has similar levels of grunt, it lacks the drama that the flat plane crank V8 of the Z06 comes with. But as Jason points out in the video, the E-Ray is the most sensible pick for someone who would use their C8 as a daily driver. It offers the right balance between outright performance and sensible MPGs.

The Corvette Stingray is ideal for those who want a sub-\$100,000 sports car. With the Z51 package, it offers supercar levels of performance at a fraction of the cost.

Upcoming 2025 Corvette ZR1 Will Be The Ultimate Z06

Chevrolet is planning to crank up the performance of the C8 Corvette all the way to eleven with the 2025 ZR1. It will be the ultimate version of the Z06, featuring the same 5.5-liter flat-plane crank V8 engine but strapped on with two turbochargers.



Credit: HotCars Photo © 2023 Valnet

Power is expected to touch 800 hp, cutting down on Z06's current sprint to 60 mph. Besides featuring forced induction, the ZR1 will also bring a bunch of other high-performance upgrades to the C8 Corvette. These would include an aggressive aero package, suspension upgrades, better brakes, and tires.

Chevrolet will price the ZR1 higher than the current C8's line-up. Expect its MSRP to touch the \$150,000 mark.

A Chevrolet Corvette SUV Is Also In The Works

As strange as it may sound (or not), a Corvette SUV is on the horizon. Details are scarce, but it is safe to assume that it'll pack in enough performance to take on its European rivals, such as the Ferrari Purosangue, Lamborghini Urus, and the Porsche Cayenne GTS.

Entry-level versions could feature the Stingray's 6.2-litre V8. But the most aggressive trim will likely get the 5.5-litre V8 out of the Z06. Chevy could introduce a Corvette SUV E-Ray with the same gas engine and electric motor configuration as the sports car.



Credit: HotCars Photo ©
2023 Valnet

Source: Chevrolet / EPA / Front Seat Driver - YouTube

Corvette Trivia (Part II)

The split window was offered only in 1963 and was scrapped for subsequent years after Zora Arkus-Duntov argued that the split interfered with the driver's rear visibility.

The code name for development of the first Corvette was called Project Opel. Code name Project Gemini was used by the team that developed the groundbreaking LT6 engine for the 2023 Corvette Z06.

In 1962, a 4-passenger prototype was built in response to Ford's 4-passenger Thunderbird, but it was never produced.

Corvette is the longest continuously produced passenger car name plate in the world. The longest-running vehicle of any type is the Chevrolet Suburban.

Bob Grossman and John Fitch raced the #3 C1 Corvette for the first time at Le Mans in 1960, winning the GT 5.0-liter class and coming in 8th overall.

Alan Shepard arrived at space training in 1959 in the 1957 Corvette he owned at the time. All of the Mercury 7 astronauts later received Corvettes through a local Florida dealer.

In 1956, five Corvettes made up the factory racing program that debuted at the 12 Hours of Sebring.

Corvette has paced the Indy 500 more than any other single nameplate. Corvette has paced the Indy 500 a record 19 times, most recently in 2022.

The C3 generation ended with the model year 1982, and C4 started with model year 1984, skipping 1983.

Betty Skelton held several land speed records, but in 1956, she hit a record 145.044 mph in her Corvette on the Daytona Beach sand flats thus setting a women's land speed record.

The XP-882 concept was shown at the 1970 New York Auto Show. It was powered by a transverse-mounted V8 engine located behind the cockpit.

From the Editor

NICC Editor: Preston Morgan

“Snow” from Irving Berlin’s *White Christmas* (1954 film) sung by Danny Kaye and Bing Crosby resonates in my head occasionally. And just like the four travelers on that train arriving in Vermont, Illinois is pretty much snowless this winter. But it will snow and then you will be wishing that you were in Florida or some other warm climate. There are people who like snow, and maybe it’s you. There is no doubt that snow is fascinating and provides a beautiful landscape. But how much do you know about the frozen rain that flutters down from the sky? Well there are many mistaken thoughts about snow and the article below sets the record straight.



Snow Myths And Odd Facts

By Natalie LaVolpe for Farmers Almanac at <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/snow-myths-and-odd-facts>

Ever wonder if it’s true that no two snowflakes are alike? How about if large snowflakes mean the storm won’t last long? Learn the truth about popular myths and bizarre facts that you’ll want to tell a friend about. After reading this, you may find yourself building an igloo!



Snow Myths Explained

Contrary to popular belief, two snowflakes can be alike!

In 1988 a scientist at the National Center for Atmosphere Research found two identical crystals during a storm in Wisconsin. However these snowflakes were only a few molecules wide.

The myth still holds up when it comes to larger snowflakes—ones that you would see drifting in the air. No two complex snowflakes are alike.

Do large snowflakes mean it’s only a passing flurry?

Possibly, but not necessarily. It means that the temperature in the upper atmosphere is warmer. If temperatures continue to rise, it could mean that the snow will stop forming.

A classic bit of weather lore states “Big Snow, Little Snow. Little Snow, Big Snow.” Farmers’ Almanac Editor Peter Geiger explains: “The smaller the snowflake, the colder the conditions and the more powerful the system—which leads to a large amount of accumulations. So small snowflakes mean greater accumulations. Big snowflakes have lots of moisture and either melt or cling together upon contact and do not build up during the storm. So if you see big wet snowflakes there should be less snow accumulating from this storm.”

Snow may fall when temperatures are above the freezing.

Snow forms in the clouds where temperatures are freezing. However it can theoretically fall when the ground surface temperatures are in the mid-40s, sometimes even higher. (See below!)

Snow is translucent—not white.

While we may dream of a White Christmas, this isn’t technically accurate. It reflects up to 90 percent of the light, with no color absorbed, therefore it is the light reflecting off the fallen snow that makes it appear to be white. Dust, pollution, and algae may make it seem to be blue, black, or even pink.

A yodel won’t cause an avalanche.

While several things can trigger an avalanche, noise isn’t one of them. Weight, such as a sudden flood of snow, sudden high wind speeds, or even the agitable footsteps of a skier can prompt a sudden cascade, but loud noises, such as yodeling, won’t have much effect and are merely fictional plot devices in movies.

Fun Facts

There are 35 types of snowflakes.

The air temperature determines a snowflake's shape. SmithsonianMagazine.com provides a link to a great infographic that shows all the kinds here.

Dust or pollen is required.

Snowflakes form around tiny bits of dust or pollen in the air. According to the National Snow and Ice Data Center, snow is a mineral. It is a naturally occurring solid, formed inorganically, with a definite chemical composition.

Snowflakes grow on their way down.

On their decent to earth through humid air, more water vapor freezes onto the surface of the crystal, enlarging their hexagonal pattern.

Snowflakes travel up to 9 miles per hour.

Depending on the environmental conditions, snowflakes can fall to Earth from 1-9 mph. It takes one snowflake roughly an hour to reach the ground.

Does it affect outdoor sounds?

Freshly fallen snow absorbs sound waves, making everything sound hushed after a flurry. Once it melts and refreezes however, the ice can make the sound waves travel even further.

More Bizarre Facts

It can be 100 degrees warmer inside an igloo!

Snow is a great insulator. It's made of 90-95 percent trapped air which prevents the transfer of heat. Warmed entirely by body heat, an igloo can be 100 degrees warmer than the outside environment. This is why animals will dig deep holes in the snow for hibernation.



Death Valley Sightings

Death Valley has received several dustings. The most recent was in 2008.

Criminalized in New York

In a tongue-to-cheek attempt to curb the onslaught in one of America's snowiest cities, the city of Syracuse, NY, passed a decree in 1992 to outlaw snow before Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't adhere to our laws, and it began coming down on December 24.

A Clinical Fear

It's called "chionophobia" from the Greek word for snow (chioni).

Hundreds of Names

It has been said that the Inuits have roughly 50 words for snow, however that pales in the comparison to the Scots, who have a recorded 421 terms for the white stuff, including 'skovin' (a large snowflake), 'spitters' (small drops of driving snow), and 'flindrikin' (a slight shower).

The Golden Snow Globe Award

is a friendly national competition which awards the snowiest city, with a population of over 1,000,000. Buffalo, New York took home the trophy for the snowiest 2021-2022 season (97.4 inches).

World Records

World's Largest Snowflake

The largest snowflake on record measured 15 inches in diameter and 8 inches thick and fell in Fort Keogh, Montana, in 1887. Local ranchers described the flakes as “larger than milk pans.”

Greatest Depth Ever Recorded

Tamarack, California holds the U.S. record for the greatest snow depth ever recorded. A total of 452 inches, or 37.5 feet, was recorded on March 11, 1911.

World-record Snowfall In 60 Minutes

Lake effect snow events help command the record books when it comes to extreme, but brief snow fall records. Copenhagen, NY, holds the record for most snowfall in one hour, recording 12 inches on December 2, 1966.

Most Snowfall 24-Hours

Silver Lake, Colorado sets the record for most snowfall in a 24-hour period. On April 14-15 in 1921, a six-foot tall man would have been buried by snow if he stood outside, recording a total of 75.8 inches of snow in one day.

Most Snow Angels In One Location

Bismark, North Dakota, holds the record for the most snow angels in one place simultaneously. 9,000 people took to the snow on the state Capital grounds, waving their arms to land the world record on February 17, 2007.



Largest Snowball Fight

On January 12, 2013, 5,834 snow fighters exchanged “snow fire” in Seattle, Washington to create the largest snowball fight in the world.

Largest Igloo Ever Built

In Zermatt, Switzerland, eighteen crew members from the Iglu-Dorf (igloo-dorf) building crew built the largest igloo ever, measuring an impressive more than 34’ tall and 42’ in diameter. It took three weeks to construct, using approximately 1,400 blocks of snow.

The Fake Stuff

How is man-made snow made? Often the man-made option is needed to keep the slopes open. The process for making man-made snow mimics the natural formation of snow, with small droplets of water freezing into ice crystals.

Most artificial snow is made using a Snow Cannon or Lance. The snowmaker uses high pressure water to blow tiny droplets into the air, which freezes as it falls to the ground.

What do they use for the fake stuff in movies? Most artificial snow allows for a quiet snowfall, without the cold, wet, and meltable natural counterpart. It is often concocted from substances such as foamite (a substance used in fire extinguishers), soap flakes, water, and sugar.

Over the years filmmakers have created it with marble dust, salt, and flour, and nowadays a much more environmentally friendly, paper-based cellulose product, is used.

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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