

VETTE CLUB NEWSLETTER



March 2026



CORVETTE

Do you own a Corvette or Corvettes? Looking for a Corvette club to join? Our goal is to promote Corvette ownership and provide a fun, casual club from which to do it. Please cruise through our [site](#). If you like what you see, click on the application link at the bottom of the Contact Us page or go to page 15 in this newsletter and become part of a great club!



Proudly Celebrating 50 Years

For Corvettes Only Inc., is a relatively small Corvette club serving Southeastern Connecticut. Since 1976 our active club has connected people interested in pursuing the enjoyment of Chevrolet Corvettes. Our club encourages responsible ownership and maintenance. We organize activities, social gatherings, fun cruises and functions for both enjoyment and education of our members. FCO Inc. attends and hosts many events throughout the year and caravans to other Corvette events in the New England area.

Acknowledgements

Front cover: www.corvsport.com

Send comments, photos, stories, etc. to michael.giliberto@verizon.net



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2026 "For Corvettes Only" Board Members



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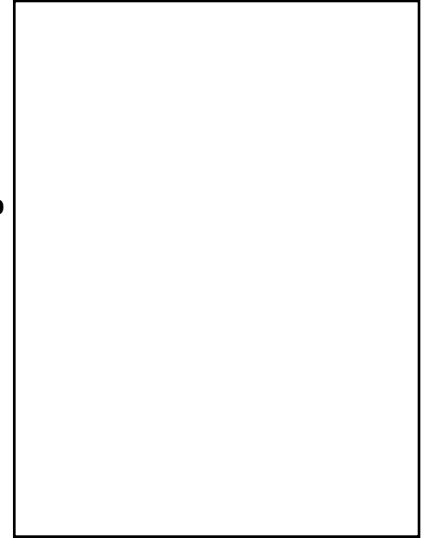
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FCO Inc. is one of the few Corvette clubs where both halves of a couple can be full-fledged members even though they only have one Corvette. We hope you contribute to FCO, Inc. by bringing new ideas and keeping the club as dynamic and interesting an organization as it can be. FCO Inc. is always seeking new members, as we want to help you better understand and enjoy your Corvette.

President's Message



We are getting closer to spring, but you would not know it. I hope everyone is safe and healthy going into March.

i am trying to arrange a race day at Supercharged in Montville for March 19th , a Thursday night when they put two tracks together. I need a head count soon to arrange for it, so let me know if you'd like to come. (If you have a Momentum card from Mohegan Sun, you get a discount and can use points if you have them.) Next up will be our Icebreaker April 19th (see page 7). We have had great response for the Back to the Beach weekend with ten cars going. If you have not signed up and want to go, do it soon (see page 13).

We need to add some people to the ride committee. Darcy Murtz has stepped down as Chair but will remain active with the group. If you have ideas for rides please contact me, preferably by text. Better yet, join the committee!

I am looking forward to a great season seeing friends and traveling to shows. Speaking of which, the flyer for our show will be done soon, but I will need help fundraising. Forward any ideas to your board members. This is your club so please give us input, especially show ideas as this is our 50th year and the 250th of the USA.

Mark

Editor's Note



I bet there will still be snow on the ground when spring officially “arrives” March 20. Anyone else?

But there are signs of things to come that can warm us up. FCO Icebreaker Cruise, Corvette Club of Western Mass show and Back to the Beach 2026 appear in this issue.

I put in a couple “Did you know?” pages. Might you have a “Did you know?” anecdote to share?

As always, I’m happy to work with you to get something included in the newsletter, especially your My Corvette Story.

Mike Giliberto

michael.giliberto@verizon.net



“For Corvettes Only” Sunshine Club

Darcy Murtz chairs our
Sunshine Club. If a club member is ill
or needs a little brightening up email Darcy at
sunshine@forcorvettesonly.com

Happy Birthday

March: Jane Fitzpatrick, Patty Keegan, Anthony LaRussa,
Patrick McPherson, Marie Ramsey, John Waggoner
April: Joyce Baiardi, Mark Christiansen

The birthday list is a continuing work in progress. Contact editor Mike if there's a mistake (wrong date, we missed your birthday, misspelling, etc.) or if you don't want to publicize.

Icebreaker Cruise



This year's Icebreaker Cruise is scheduled for Sunday, April 19. Once again, our destination is Tullis Tap House in Griswold, CT. The restaurant is at River Ridge Golf Course. We're aiming for a 1 pm lunch. Meet up location(s) for an FCO caravan will be announced.



Photo: CorvetteForum

Did You Know: Motor Trend Saved Corvette?

The Chevrolet Corvette debuted as a concept car at the 1953 GM Motorama in January. Visitors responded with enthusiasm. Chevrolet decided to put the car into production. The first Corvettes rolled off a temporary assembly line in Flint, Michigan, in June 1953. Only 300 units appeared that year, each hand-built and priced at \$3,498.

Sales started slowly. By late summer, dealers reported customer hesitation. The car had a fabric top that leaked, no roll-up windows, and no exterior door handles. Its Power-glide automatic transmission and 150-horsepower Blue Flame six-cylinder engine did not match the performance many buyers expected from a sports car. Unsold 1953 models sat on dealer lots into the fall. Chevrolet executives began to question the future of the program. Production plans for 1954 called for 1,000 units per month, yet fewer than 200 cars had sold in the first six months. Some inside General Motors suggested canceling the Corvette before heavier losses occurred.

Motor Trend magazine published its December 1953 issue during this uncertain period. Inside, a multi-page road test written by technical editor Don MacDonald appeared. MacDonald drove a Corvette from Los Angeles to Yosemite and back. He praised the car's fiberglass body, low weight, and precise steering. He noted the independent suspension provided handling that European sports cars struggled to match on American roads. Acceleration times and cornering ability received detailed attention. MacDonald acknowledged the side curtains and lack of roll-up windows, yet he presented these as acceptable trade-offs for a pure sports car design. The article included photographs of the Corvette on mountain roads and at high speeds. Comparison charts placed the Corvette against MG, Jaguar, and Triumph models. In most performance categories, the Chevrolet equaled or surpassed its imported rivals, often at a lower price.



Did You Know: Motor Trend Saved Corvette?



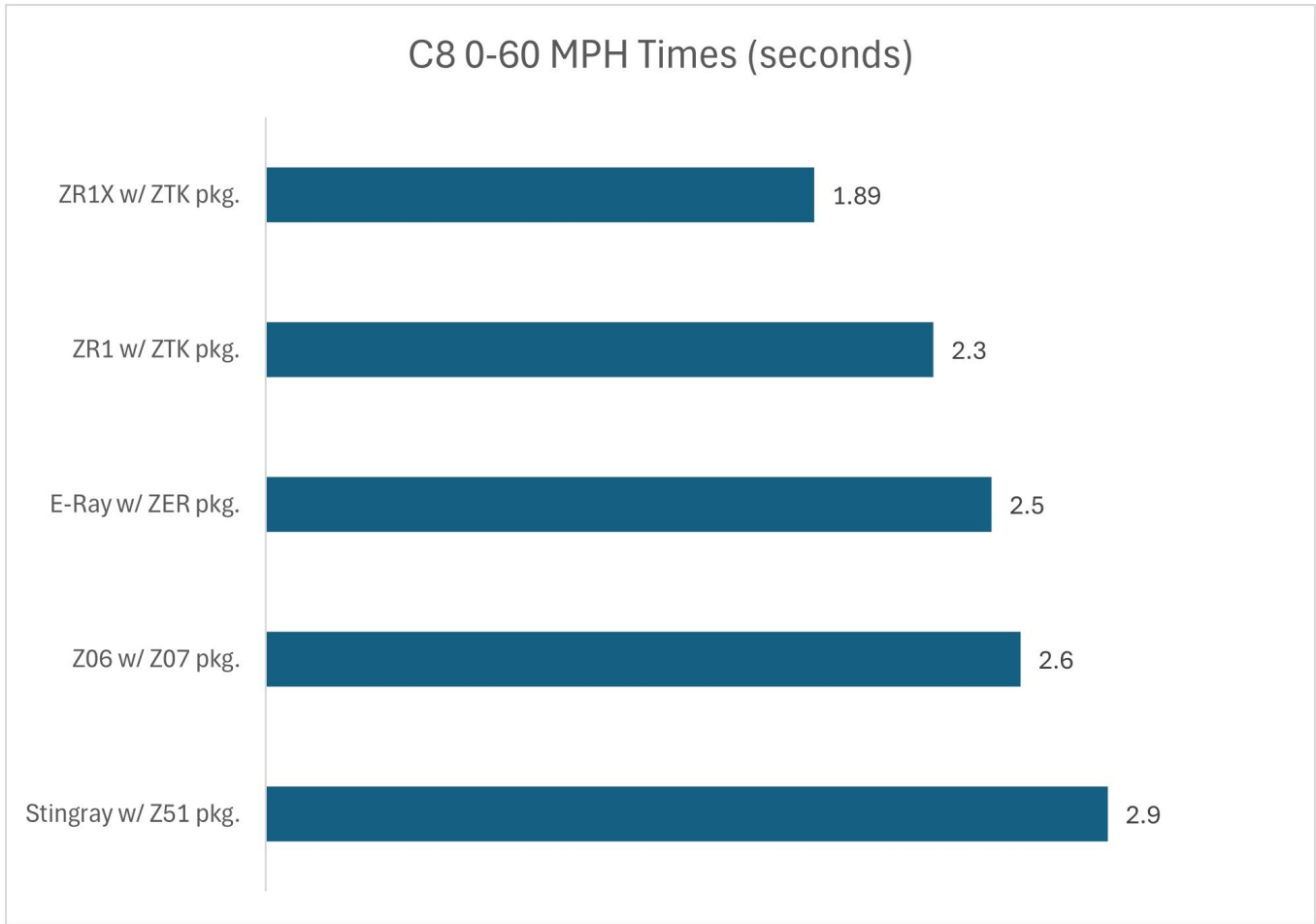
Dealers later reported that customers brought copies of the *Motor Trend* issue into showrooms. Many buyers cited the article as a key reason for their purchase. Orders increased in early 1954. Chevrolet raised 1954 production from the original 1,000-unit plan to meet demand. The December 1953 *Motor Trend* coverage provided third-party validation at a moment when Chevrolet needed it most. Positive press from a respected automotive publication helped shift public perception. Buyers saw the Corvette as a credible competitor to established European brands.

Without the timing and tone of *Motor Trend's* December 1953 coverage, the Corvette story might have ended after a single model year. Instead, the magazine's endorsement gave Chevrolet the confidence and customer interest needed to continue production into 1954 and beyond. The Corvette enters its eighth decade because a magazine road test arrived when the car needed support most.

Sources: NCM (article); www.corvsport.com (photo)

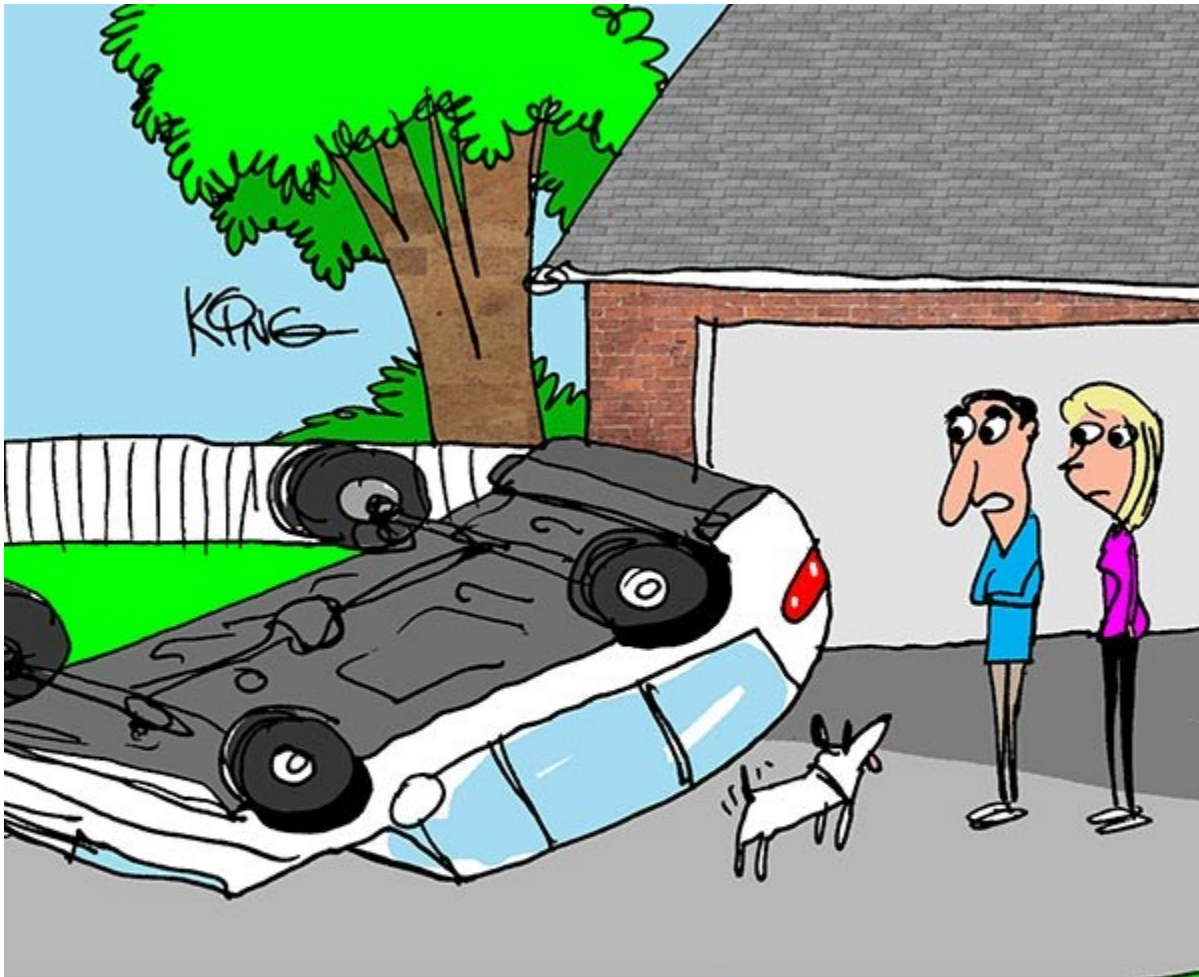


Did You Know: How Fast C8 Accelerates?



Source: news.chevrolet.com

Corvette Humor



“Our car is just trying to get attention. It does this when I spend too much time with our Corvette.”



Source: corvetteblogger.com

CCWM Corvette Show



Corvette Club
of **Western Mass**

ALL CORVETTE SHOW

Charity: To be announced



May 17th, 2026



10:00am - 2:00pm



Chicopee Moose Lodge

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Live Music by Midlife Crisis

Door Prize: 55-inch 4k TV



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Back to the Beach June 2026



The Celebration of Life in honor of Sandie Bergeron will be held in Old Orchard Beach, ME on June 12 and 13, 2026. One hotel is sold out but others are still available. You will need to sign up on the Back to the Beach site to reserve your dinner for Saturday if you have not done so already. We are leaving Friday June 12th at 9:30 am if you are interested in caravanning up with us. We will take a break about halfway for lunch to be determined.





FCO Calendar of Events

<u>March</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3: Monthly meeting
<u>April</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7: Monthly meeting• 19: Icebreaker cruise
<u>Later in 2026</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 13: Vettes At The Beach

Above calendar shows club-specific events. There will be email updates on activities such as cruises and car shows, both FCO and others.

FCO monthly meetings are usually held at Flanders Fish Market in East Lyme. Most folks come for dinner before the business meeting, which starts at 6:30 pm. Knollwood is the Knollwood Beach Club-house on Clubhouse Lane in Old Saybrook.



BECOME A MEMBER

Join over 38,000 Corvette enthusiasts from across the globe by becoming a member of the National Corvette Museum! Membership categories: individuals (\$65/yr.), families (\$100/yr.), and businesses/clubs (\$250/yr.). Lifetime memberships are available, with a special rate for seniors 65+ (\$750 for 20 years).



www.corvettemuseum.org

NCM Corvette Raffles



2026 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 3/26/2026
Price: **\$150.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1267
Drawing: March 26, 2026 2:00 PM Central Time
30 days 3 hrs 30 min 27 sec
2026 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 3/26/2026



2026 Arctic White Corvette Coupe 4/16/2026
Price: **\$100.00** Tickets: 2000 Available: 1842
Drawing: April 16, 2026 2:00 PM Central Time
51 days 3 hrs 30 min 27 sec
2026 Arctic White Corvette Coupe 4/16/2026



2026 Black Corvette Z06 Coupe 4/24/2026
Price: **\$300.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1353
Drawing: April 24, 2026 2:00 PM Central Time
59 days 3 hrs 30 min 27 sec
2026 Black Corvette Z06 Coupe 4/24/2026



2026 Torch Red Corvette Coupe 4/25/2026
Price: **\$20.00** Unlimited Raffle
Drawing: April 25, 2026 2:00 PM Central Time
60 days 3 hrs 30 min 27 sec
2026 Torch Red Corvette Coupe 4/25/2026



[Corvette Raffle - Main Page \(corvettemuseum.org\)](http://corvettemuseum.org) for more.

Member Benefit: Town Fair Tire Discount

COMMERCIAL FLEET

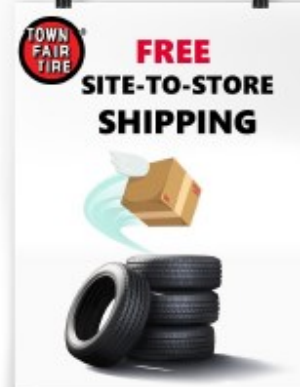
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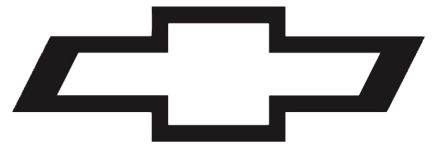
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Photos: Michael Melford, Cindy Horovitz Wilson



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