



Acadia Region Corvette Club

A Club for Corvette Enthusiasts Since 2008

President's Letter for April 2022



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ARCC Members & Friends—

Nothing quite like Spring on the coast of Maine... mid-50s, bright, and calm one day, 28°, blustery winds, and snow flurries the next. One day we are itching to uncover our cars and think about taking them out for the year, the next day wondering when or even if that can happen. But the vagaries of New England weather aside, there are lots of events and activities already in the works for the coming cruising season. In fact, newsletters from other New England clubs show photos of cars already out for the season. Check out the Calendar page of our new website (still at AcadiaVettes.org) for a list of what's in store for 2022. Let's all look forward to an exciting cruising season full of events, camaraderie, and fun.

At March's Meeting

Club Bylaws. As you've all read over the past couple of months, the ARCC has been in the process of updating our club bylaws. The final version of the proposed update had been distributed to club members prior to the March meeting and those attending the meeting voted to accept the proposed changes. If you want to see the accepted version visit the *About Us* page of our club website, AcadiaVettes.org.

Website. Speaking of our website, the updated version of the site is now live. Past webmaster Bernie Woody and I had been planning a changeover sometime in the next few months but, thanks to a surprise revelation that our current ISP's contract was up for renewal much sooner than expected, we had to accelerate the process. The switch to a new ISP was initiated on March 24th and completed three days later on the 27th. We still have our AcadiaVettes.org domain, just a new look to the site and some new content. I will continue to refine the site over the coming months so if any of you have comments on the site's overall look and usability, suggestions for content, or see things that don't seem quite right, please let me know.

In a Corvette every trip is an adventure!

Mid-winter Potluck. March also saw about a third of ARCC members meet *in person* (hooray, hooray!) for good food, camaraderie, and fun at our mid-winter potluck luncheon at the Elks Lodge. Congratulations and many thanks (again) to Diane Bossert for organizing it and Pat Minier for helping to set things up and ensure it was a success. It was good to see both the long-time members as well as some of our newer members in such a relaxed atmosphere.



Upcoming Activities

Corvette Autumn Planning. Bernie Woody and a too-small group of members have started the process of planning our Club's major event, the September *Corvette Autumn* car show. There's lots to be done between now and then to ensure a successful show and Bernie sure could use a few more members to help out. Both with helping to prepare for the show as well as helping out on the day of the show. Among the jobs that we need volunteers for are helping with the sign-in desk, directing parking, placing signs, and running the games. If you think you'll be participating in the show, please think about volunteering to help. Call or email me and I'll get you pointed in the right direction. This is your club and your show and we need lots more help to make it the success it's been throughout the years.

Other events. Near the end of our potluck luncheon, I distributed my photo scavenger hunt game packages to those who wanted them. If you decide you want a copy now that you've heard what others have said about it, email me and I'll send you a package. Other than that, the *Calendar* page of our new website has a continually updated list of local and regional events and activities.

People & Places

Member Celebrations

April Birthdays

Priscilla Audette
Charlene Clemens
Phyllis Houp
John Stiles

April Anniversaries

Don & Cindy Blanchett

May Birthdays

Gary Cabit
Marshall Dodge
Eric Judson

May Anniversaries

(none that we know)

First on the Road?

If you think you might be the first one to take your car out of winter storage this Spring—or have already been out—send me an email with a date and a photo and I'll put you in the May President's letter as our 2022 Early Bird. Sadly, even though the days are warming, Carol and I will have to wait until the huge quantities of salt-laden sand are swept off our road before we dare take either *Sweet Potato* or *Sunshine* out for the year.

Corvette News

I recently found a *CorvSport.com* article from August 2021 that got me looking for information about the electrification of the Corvette. Then a few days later I listened to a radio interview with the head of GM's electric vehicle program. So I began to wonder what the latest story was on an electric Corvette. I found several outdated stories on the web with all sorts of speculation and artist conceptions but had trouble finding anything current. That is, until I found what appears to be a recent blog on <https://gmauthority.com/blog/gm/chevrolet/corvette/corvette-e-ray/>. (I hate it when websites that report "news" don't include a date!) This article traces the generation of the public release of this news to two December 2015 applications to register "Corvette E-Ray" and "E-Ray" as trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Here's what the article had to say about what to expect in the new model:

- "A wide-body, high-performance hybrid model that will be positioned to indirectly replace the Grand Sport in the Corvette lineup. To that end, the introduction of the Corvette E-Ray means that a Corvette Grand Sport will not be part of the Corvette C8 model line.
- "An electrified powertrain, consisting of the atmospheric 6.2L V8 LT2 gasoline engine good for 490 horsepower that powers the 2020 Corvette Stingray mated to an electric drive unit located in the front cargo area plus four 1.94 kWh batteries located in the middle of the car. Peak output of the hybrid system is expected to be around 85 kW (115 horsepower) and 111 pound-feet of torque, with some rumors pointing to the electric motor being able to spin to 16,000 RPM. Total system power is expected to be in the vicinity of 600 horsepower, focused on improving performance rather than on efficiency.
- "A wide body and upgraded chassis compared to the C8 Stingray.
- "Wider wheel and tire combination than the Stingray, allowing the Corvette E-Ray to have a greater contact patch to the road, with 20-inch front wheels wrapped in 275/30R20 tires and 21-inch rear wheels wrapped in 345/25R21 rubber
- "Michelin Sport Cup 2 R tires are expected to be offered, though it's possible that this will not be the standard tire on the E-Ray. A set of carbon fiber wheels will also be offered as part of the optional Z07 package.
- "Larger, more capable brakes compared to the Stingray."

They went on to say that the hybrid Corvette E-Ray could launch this year for the 2023 model year, and that it will be available as both a coupe with removable roof panel and a hard-top convertible.

Who will be the first among us to see one... when and where?

And Under the Heading "Is it Real or Is it Memorex"

Bernie Woody sent me the photo below. My first reaction was to question whether this was real or just a great job of photo editing. Either way, it sure is something to marvel at.



A Little Corvette Quiz

Last month I asked if anyone knew *where* and *when* the first Corvette was introduced. The answer was at the GM *Motorama Show* at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The date was January 19, 1953.

The very first production Chevrolet Corvette C1 rolled off a makeshift assembly line in Flint, Michigan in June of 1953. The initial batch of cars, which was limited to only 300 units, were all black canvas soft tops and all wore the now iconic Polo White exterior color scheme and featured an equally iconic red interior.



An April Fool's Headline from CarBuzz.com.

This week my phone took me to the CarBuzz website where I found an article entitled "Chevrolet Pulls The Plug On Corvette Z06." The tag line to the article was, "Tightening legislation and problems with engine development have forced GM to reevaluate its product plans." The article was well-written, lengthy, and filled with very reasonable sounding details. Almost reasonable enough to believe. Almost. The only obvious hint was the date on the article, not "April 1st" but "April Fools Day." If you want to see the article for yourself, go to <https://carbuzz.com/news/chevrolet-pulls-the-plug-on-corvette-z06>.

A last-minute addition to "Upcoming Events"

Part of our preparation for our *Corvette Autumn* show in September was a submission to *CruiseMaine* for their annual magazine. This year's edition will be out as of April 30th. So far as I know, the magazine is free and anyone who wants one can pick up a copy at the *CruiseMaine* Open House in Topsham on April 30th, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, rain or shine. The event will be held at 4 Union Park Road in Topsham, just off Rt. 196. There is no entry fee. For more information, call Lee at (207) 319-6945.



Final Thoughts

As I move into my first full year of leading that Acadia Region Corvette Club, I have one very specific objective in mind as club President: increase member participation in ARCC events and activities. Echoing the thoughts of other Corvette club presidents around New England, this is your Corvette club and, as our welcome letter says, "...don't be shy. Take the initiative, volunteer, and get involved. *An organization is more fun if you're part of it!*" To start getting involved, plan to attend our monthly meetings and learn first-hand about club activities. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, in the evening, via Zoom so there's little reason not to attend. I hope to see you online soon.

Roger Dean
President, ARCC

An Important Notice

Thanks to conflicting obligations, I have to change the start time for our April club meeting. It will be held on its usual day, Wednesday, April 27th, but will start at 7:30 pm instead of the usual 7:00 pm.