



# Desert Vettes

***Palm Springs Corvette Club***

**March 2023**

## **Burton Date Farm Tour & Dinner**



## **Annual Gambler's Run!!!**



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## **President's Message....**

February was a busy month with the Dr. George car and The Burton Family Date Farm Tour. Our thanks again to the Burtons for a wonderful afternoon of fun, food and fellowship!

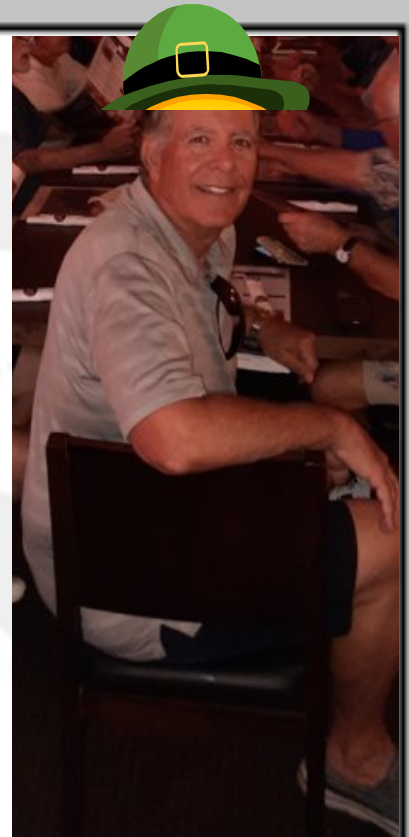
March has started off with The Gamblers Run in Laughlin, Nevada. The Corvette Club of Bakersfield puts this on annually and is a fantastic event. PSCC received The Participation Award this year which was \$1000 check for our charity. We had 19 cars and 37 people. The money will be divided evenly between The Boys & Girls Club and ALS.

Our general session meeting this month will be at Mastersfield in Palm Desert & our DNO will be on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at Fantasy Springs Casino. Also the La Quinta Car show that was rained out last month will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. You can still signup for the show!

Corvette of the month goes to Ron Welshon and his new red Z06. Congratulations Ron! Hang on Liz!

For the second month in a row we have lost another longtime member, Paul Aragon. Paul served as president of the club five times and served as a mentor to many of us. He will be missed!

Stan





## 2023 Palm Springs Corvette Club Executive....

President...Stan Moreno

VP ...Bob Raker

Treasurer...Hazel Stearns

Membership... Ron Singer

Editor/Media... Russell DeLong

Marketing....Garry Dean

Governor...Tom Pinard

Secretary ...Ron Singer

Officer at Large.. Joyce Sosebee and Liz Brannon

Newsletter Editor..Mike Smith

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:** Articles etc are encouraged from the membership. Send to Mike Smith via [mjsmith3@shaw.ca](mailto:mjsmith3@shaw.ca) by the deadline of the first of each month.

### Corvette Facts...Did You Know....

In 1988, Corvette started using a unidirectional 17" wheel.

Approximately 80 ZR-1 Corvettes were built in 1989, but none were sold to the public! The last of these ZR-1s were

shipped out off the factory on Dec.22, 1988. Most probably became collector cars bought at inflated prices and in personal car collections!

The FX3 adjustable suspension option, permitting shock valving changes via a rotary dial mounted on the interior console between the seats, was first introduced in 1989.



### Palm Springs Corvette Club Charities We Support ...



Boys & Girls Club  
of Cathedral City

**ALS**  
**ASSOCIATION**

## Palm Springs Corvette Club Sponsor....



Jessup Auto Plaza was established in 1938. It is the premier family-owned and operated dealership in Cathedral City. We've served the Palm Springs, Indio and La Quinta CA Buick, Chevrolet, Corvette, Cadillac drivers for 80 years with new and used vehicles, service and financing. Make it a point to have a look at our inventory online at <https://www.jessupautoplaza.com>. or visit us at 68-111 E Palm Canyon Drive Cathedral City CA.



For Jessup Service; Call the advisor and tell them you are with the Palm Springs Corvette Club and to schedule you with Service Advisors...Jorge or Sean and their information is:

Sean Tisdale: Text preferred 925-207-9266.

Email: [seantisdale@jessupautoplaza.com](mailto:seantisdale@jessupautoplaza.com)

Jorge Miramontas: Text preferred 760-905-8836

Email: [jorgemiramontes@jessupautoplaza.com](mailto:jorgemiramontes@jessupautoplaza.com)

Service Manager: Ron Austin 760-459-7313

email: [ronaustin@jessupautoplaza.com](mailto:ronaustin@jessupautoplaza.com)





## Remembering Paul!!!

### SMILE AND REMEMBER PAUL...

Mischievous grin and twinkling eyes,  
Belly laughs with the coffee guys.

No alcohol needed at home or the bars,  
His interests focused on his Corvette cars.

Physical problems caused many stops,  
Still, he participated in runs and hops.

Music he loved, especially the old,  
And when he danced, his age never showed.

Always ready with one more backstory,  
Allowing his humor to surface in each category.

With a taunting smile resembling the Grinch,  
Entertaining his friends was always a cinch.

He was Palm Springs Corvette Club's patriarch,  
Always ready with a zinger or funny remark.

He will be missed by all, and that's for sure,  
There is no doubt his memory will long endure.

--Hazel Stearns

3/9/2023



**Thank you so very much - you did such an awesome job - going to share with his family and mine - many many thanks, dear friend. Joyce**

## **PSCC Corvette of the Month!!!**



**Ron Whelshon's new Z06 1st in PSCC. Watch that guy in the blue, think he is going to steal it!!!**





## PSCC at Burton Date Farm Tour & Dinner...





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What a fabulous afternoon enjoyed by all, outdoors at the Burton Date Farm! Thank you, Ron & Sharon for a fun event!

P S C C  
Members



Palm Springs Corvette Club



## Annual Gambler's Run!!!

Fun "Annual Gamblers Run - All Corvette Show" hosted by Corvettes Of Bakersfield in Laughlin, NV! PSCC was presented with the 'Participation Award' for largest club attendance at the event, and received \$1,000 for our club's charity! Whoop Whoop!!





## Annual Gambler's Run!!!



Palm Springs Corvette Club



# Annual Gambler's Run!!!





## Save the Date for La Quinta Car Show...



### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual La Quinta Car Show on

Open to the Public 9 am - 3 pm, Registration begins at 7 am  
La Quinta Community Park, 77-865 Avenida Montezuma, La Quinta

**March 25, 2023**



#### Car Participant/ Motorcycle Participant *(please print clearly and be sure to fill in each line)*

Vehicle Fee: \$45 prior to Feb. 4th. Motorcycle Fee: \$30.00 prior to Feb. 4th. After Feb. 4th add \$10.00 to entry fee.  
Free t-shirt with registration while supplies last.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (circle one) Shirt Size M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Vehicle or Motorcycle Information *(please print clearly and be sure to fill in each line)*

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS/RELEASE

I understand that I assume all risk of loss, theft, damage, liability, injury, cost or exposure that I may incur during the event presented by the GCVCC and further agree that I will release and hold harmless, the GCVCC, it's Employees, Board of Directors, the City of La Quinta, the Desert Recreation District, La Quinta Community Park, and Volunteers, for any claims, loss liability, damage, or cause of action, including attorneys' fees, that I may incur, suffer or be required to pay in the course of my participation, exhibit or volunteer at any of the events and activities held. I further assume full responsibility for the safety and insurance coverage for my vehicle/exhibit, which is entered in the Car Show. I also acknowledge that my vehicle maybe used in future advertisements and event promotions. By signing this form, I agree to all Terms and Conditions. This is a rain or shine event. No refunds or exchanges.

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The La Quinta Car Show is always a fun day in the La Quinta Park. The Mayor of La Quinta will be there, she has been a big supporter of Cars & Coffee on Saturday Morning helping us with the owner of the Shopping Center. If you sign up to attend, please me know so we can hold a spot for you. Stan



*"In honor of St. Patrick's Day, I painted your car green. I knew it would leave you speechless, dad."*



## **Palm Springs 85th Anniversary April 8, 2023...**

**One of the unique events will be a submission to the "Guinness Book of World Records" of a car parade. One car selected for every year starting in 1938 to "brand new 2023" will drive in the**



**parade. The General Public is invited to submit their personal car for inclusion. A team of Auto Press Journalist will vet all applications for the 85 openings. To be eligible, participants must provide their contact information along with a description of their car and a picture and signup at McKormick Auction website [www.classic-carauction.com/anniversary-Car-Parade](http://www.classic-carauction.com/anniversary-Car-Parade).**

## **Happy Belated Birthday Floyd...**



## Meanderings...

**Bridgestone Proxos  
R888T Tires 2-  
245/35ZR-19 &  
2-315/30R-20 ON  
corvette Rims "like  
new" \$1800.**

**Contact Ron Welshons  
760-831-5774 or  
[rwwelshons@gmail.com](mailto:rwwelshons@gmail.com)**

**Garry Dean "the Magician"  
discovering another way to  
open his trunk without using  
his key!!!**



Autocross/Solo organized by  
PCA - Riverside



**PAID CORNER  
WORKERS**

**LUNCH  
INCLUDED**

**AUTOCROSS**



**PORSCHE**

**Porsche Ontario**  
A Walter's Automotive Company



**AUTOCROSS**



**PORSCHE**

**Porsche Riverside**  
A Walter's Automotive Company

📅 Sat, Apr 1, 2023

## **PCA - RsR Autocross April 1, 2023**

Palm Springs Convention Center



**Registration ends**

Fri, Mar 31 at 11:59 PM PDT



**Sat, Apr 1, 2023**



**Palm Springs Convention Center**  
Palm Springs, ca



## Z06 Wins Car & Driver Track Test...

2023 Corvette Z06 Wins Car and Driver's 2023 Lightning Lap Competition.

Built to dominate at the track, that's precisely what the 2023 Corvette Z06 did in this long-running competition.



The 2023 Corvette Z06 has garnered **all kinds of praise** since its launch, proving to live up to the immense hype that preceded it – not an easy task by any means. The latest Z06 is a true beast of a performance car that's equally capable of **accelerating rapidly in a straight line** and **carving up corners on the track**, and as such, everyone knew that it was going to be a bit of a ringer at *Car and Driver's* annual Lightning Lap competition, which pits a whole bunch of new vehicles against each other at Virginia International Raceway to test their prowess. And that's precisely what it did at the 2023 version of this long-running test.

It's not that the 2023 Corvette Z06 faced a group of cream puff competitors, either – this year's lineup included cars like the Lamborghini Huracán Tecnica, Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS, and BMW C4 CSL, to name just a few. There were also a host of far less expensive machines like the newest Honda Civic Type R, Toyota GR Corolla, and BMW i4 M50, but let's be honest – they're fun, but featherweights compared to cars like the 2023 Corvette Z06.

When the dust settled, the Z06 – which is fully loaded in this case, with the Z07 package and carbon fiber goodies – managed a best lap time of 2:38.6, which topped every single entrant in this year's Lightning Lap. However, what's even more impressive about that figure is that it's also the fifth fastest lap in the event's entire history – which has taken place at VIR since 2006 – and it's also the fastest lap for any naturally-aspirated vehicle at LL, ever.

Needless to say, the *C&D* crew came away mighty impressed!!

**Just in!!! C8 Z06 Set a New Record at Auto Club Speedway!!!**



## '56 Duntov Special...

Uncovering an original-owner 1956 Corvette is reason enough to rejoice, but this '56 is one of 111 built with option codes 469, 2x4 carburetors on a 265ci, and 449, Duntov special high-lift cam that raised output to 240 horsepower.



"I had to buy the whole estate to get the car," Bob Kunz said.

Kunz, who is famous for rebuilding carburetors says he "got a pile of paperwork" with the Vette to document Chevrolet's famous option code "449" of 1956. "I've got the order sheet, invoice, title and warranty paperwork."

Chevrolet introduced #449 "for racing purposes only," priced at \$188.30 plus the \$172.20 cost of the 225-horsepower, 2x4 265ci V-8. The sum of \$360.50 was more than 10 percent of the base cost of a '56 Corvette; not small change in the mid-1950s. "The original owner kept a record of every gas purchase from the time he bought the car new until the day he stored it in his basement garage in 1983 and never drove the car again,"

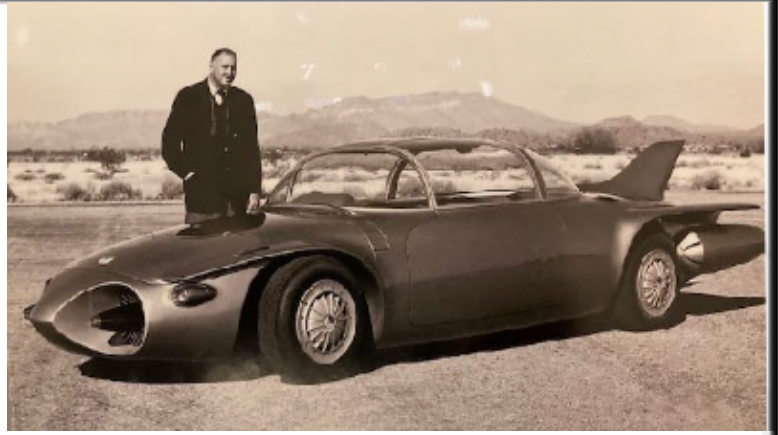
"I threw \$100,000 at them. It was actually a little more than \$100,000. That was a Tuesday morning." To Bob's surprise, when he got home the next day he found a message on his answering machine. The court had accepted his offer. Bob was in for a bigger surprise when he paid for the estate. Shirley handed him "all this paperwork."

Now in his 70s, Bob Kunz still rebuilds carburetors for clients. A multiple carbureted '56 Corvette was a perfect match for him. He has decided to hang onto the '56 to drive and enjoy.



## Corvette History...

The Chevy “Q” program from the 1950’s, as well as the XP-84 Corvette concept it spawned. In both cases, the chief goal was to move the transmission to the rear of the vehicle in an effort to improve weight balance and handling. It was an idea GM had previously showcased in the form of the gas-turbine powered ’56 Firebird II prototype (shown here with GM design chief Harley Earl, who oversaw the creation).



Along with the hybrid trans/differential unit or “transaxle”, the Firebird II housed one of the company’s earliest application of a four-wheel independent suspension, a feature that would be used to great effect in Chevy’s flagship sports car starting in 1963. And while it would take another 34 years for a transaxle to find its way into a production Corvette, the configuration worked so well on the ’97-04 C5 that it was carried over to the C6 and C7 generations that followed.

The Firebird II may not garner much attention these days among Corvette- history buffs, but considering that two of its engineering innovations ultimately became mainstays of the Corvette. So, let's give the car its due!

## Chevy Reveals Sleek Electric Sedan...

GM President Mark Reuss mentioned a large car with a "dramatic low-roof, sedan-like proportion" that was in the works for China. However, at GM's Tech Day China event the following week, a concept called the FNR-XE was revealed. Chevy has whittled its current U.S. lineup down to one internal combustion engine

model, the Malibu. Things are different in China, where sedans are still popular and several can be found in Chevy's showrooms, and there are apparently more on the way.





## GM Approved Mid-Engine Corvette Back in 2007.....

GM **unveiled** the mid-engine **Corvette C8** for the 2020 model year, making a giant leap in terms of performance and engineering for the iconic sports car nameplate. However, according to former GM vice chairman **Bob Lutz**, The General had actually approved the development of a production-spec mid-engine **Corvette** as far back as 2007.



According to Lutz, the idea centered around whether or not GM “had the money.” The former GM exec states that, at the time, the mid-engine Corvette design was “smoother” and more “angular” than the current mid-engine Corvette C8, something akin to a Ferrari or McLaren. However, Lutz says the program was canned “because it was an all-new architecture, came up to around \$900 million. Well, when bankruptcy was imminent, chapter 11 was imminent, a lot of programs had to be stricken, and that was one of them.”

As a result GM, opted to reduce the Corvette capital investment budget to basically “zero” and continue to produce the C6 Corvette for “quite a while longer.” Lutz continues by saying that once additional funds were available to once again develop the Corvette, the C7 came out with a longer wheelbase “for better balance.” Lutz calls the C7 a “similar, but much more-capable car than the C6.”

Following the traditional pattern of model releases for the C7 Corvette, from the base model, to the **Z06**, to the **Grand Sport**, to the **ZR1**, GM finally got around to releasing the mid-engine Corvette C8. However, if funding didn’t dry up, Lutz estimates that a mid-engine Corvette may have been released as early as 2011 or 2012.

Of course, it bears mentioning that **the essential idea of mid-engine Corvette** is certainly much older than all of this, with decades of history to point to, all the way back to the “Father of the Corvette,” **Zora Arkus-Duntov**. Even so, it’s interesting to think about what may have been had GM escaped bankruptcy.

## Only in California??

The internet has been buzzing about a **Hyundai** customer, and their situation involving a traffic stop. California is known for being **unnecessarily strict on modified vehicles**. However, **in these examples no modifications were made**.



There is a dash cam video of the stop where the officer claims that it is illegal to run track modes with any vehicle on a California public road. This has caused some outrage in the comments of posts like this. No one can quite understand how a legally registered **sports sedan** that is 50-state smog approved can fall under this kind of scrutiny. There was no warning displayed that states that the **specified sportier drive mode is for track-use only**.

One driver of a **2022 Hyundai Elantra** N-Line recently received a citation for driving in track mode, which Hyundai has dubbed "N Mode".

A similar story about a Chevy Camaro SS owner purchased the vehicle, and that it was bone stock! Though, to be clear, the law only addresses driving with modified exhausts as being illegal. In both these cases, the car's exhaust systems were stock. But with the valves open in sport/track mode, the exhausts do get louder. It should be no surprise that the car passed smog with flying colors. Unfortunately, the noise level in the N mode continued to fail.

Well, we have found there is no law in California regarding the use of track or sport modes on the street. We looked up the codes in this driver's citation. Both codes point to a non-compliant exhaust. The problem is that manufacturers are having their cars tested without the use of these sport/track modes. That way they pass for sale to the public, and the customer has to take to responsibility afterwards. To avoid legal issues with their customers, maybe the manufacturers should add a disclaimer that pops up when these more aggressive drive modes are activated.



## Microsoft Computers Compared to Cars!!!

Bill Gates said at COMDEX, “ if GM kept up with technology like the computer industry we would be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon!!!!

In response, GM issued a press release stating; there are reasons why they didn't and here are a few with more next month:

- For “no” reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day!
- Every time they painted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car!
- Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all windows, shut off the car, restart it and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this!!!!
- Only one person at a time could use the car, unless you bought “Car NT”, but then you would have to buy more seats and that would force everyone to to have the same size e butt!
- The oil, coolant and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single “general protection fault” warning light!





## Cars You "Won't" see on the Road...



Car from 1950-1960 that were never seen of the roads. These two are the 1958 Ford X-2000 (you are kidding me) and 1953 Cadillac Ghia Coupe!!!



## Unique Rides...





## Down the Road....

Mar 10 El Paseo Cruise 2pm Staging  
Mar 11 Cars & Coffee Aspen Mills  
Mar 11 Cruise-in at the River  
Mar 15 PSCC Club Meeting  
Mar 15-18 Corvette Racing Sebring  
Mar 16 PSCC Bowling/Dinner Nite Out  
Mar 17 Paseo Cruise 2pm Staging  
Mar 18 Cars & Coffee Aspen Mills  
Mar 18 Cruise-in at the River  
Mar 19 NASCAR Atlanta  
Mar 24 Diva & Stud Lunches  
Mar 25 La Quinta Shine/Show  
Mar 26 NASCAR Circuit of Americas  
Apr 8th 85th Palm Springs Anniversary



Check the [National Corvette Museum](#) emails/website for activities and offerings near you!

## Did you ever wonder!!!

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are "low"?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?



## Collecting for Ronald McDonald House...

Reminder that we ask PSCC Members to collect toiletries from motels, soaps, shampoos and can pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda. This is a great cause and saves you throwing them in the recycle or garbage. Just put them in a bag and bring them to each meeting for Vicki and Mike Nichols. The kids will thank you so much, and Ronald will too!

