



# SOUTHERN OREGON CORVETTE ASSOCIATION, LLC

Sponsored by



P.O. Box 865  
Medford, Oregon 97501

[www.sovette.com](http://www.sovette.com)

501(c) (7) Non-profit Organization  
Federal Tax I.D. #91-1819589

## Newsletter April 2015

### 2015 Directors

**President:** Sandee Anderson  
**Vice-President:** Ron Howard  
**Secretary:** Geoff White  
**Treasurer:** Juanita Gillaspey  
**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Tony Herrera  
**Past President (2013):** Dave Wills

### Appointed Positions

**Historian:** Group Effort  
**Photographer:** Jody Gerber  
**Sunshine:** Dora Surbrook  
**Activities:** Group Effort  
**Event Reminder:** Sheron Leigh  
**Membership:** Florin Baldrige  
**Webmaster:** Len Atlas  
**Parade Coordinator:** Dora Surbrook  
**NCM Ambassador:** Len Atlas  
**CORVETTE Weekend:** Len Atlas  
(Refer to Membership Roster for contact information)

### May Birthdays

Dan Calvert 5/6  
Donna Amici 5/8  
Diana Roarty 5/8  
JoAnn Scott 5/19  
Mary Clarke 5/21  
Candy Walker 5/24  
Cathy Cardoza 5/25  
Mike Graves 5/25  
Dale Morgan 5/27  
Julie Allen 5/30

### **SOCA Logo Apparel**

Contact Dave Wills to order **SOCA** apparel.

### Next Club Social

April 18, 2015, 6:00 P.M.  
**Mac's Diner, Shady Cove**

Please RSVP to Sheron Leigh, 541-955-9224,  
[1gypsyleigh@gmail.com](mailto:1gypsyleigh@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

### Why Join SOCA?

- ⚡ Promote esprit-de-corps among Corvette enthusiasts.
- ⚡ Create interest in the Corvette as a true dual-purpose sports car.
- ⚡ Provide a means of technical information and service to members.
- ⚡ Encourage dealer and manufacturer cooperation.
- ⚡ Organize and promote events of a social nature and provide social gatherings for enthusiasts with common interest.
- ⚡ Sponsor or participate in activities to benefit the community through recognized charities as selected by the members of the Association.

- SOCA Constitution -

### Upcoming Meetings

**General Membership:** Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 PM  
Rogue River Community Center  
**Visitors are always welcome!**

## Graves Creek on Rogue River



March 21, 2015



## Events & Activities

- April 11** – 61<sup>st</sup> Pear Blossom Run and Street Fair, Downtown Medford. Form up at Rogue Valley Mall between 8:45 and 9:00 A.M.
- April 18** – SOCA Social, 6:00 P.M. Mac's Diner, Shady Cove. Run prior, details to be determined.
- May 2** – Magical Merlin Parade, Merlin. Meet at Umpqua Bank, Merlin (I-5 Exit 61) 8:45 A.M. Lunch to follow at Galice Resort.
- May 6** – SOCA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River.
- May 17** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cops and Rodders Car Show, Medford.
- May 23** – SOCA Social, 6:00 P.M. Location to be determined.
- May 23-24** – Corvettes of Lake County Present the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Run to the Lake," Lakeport, CA.
- June 3** – SOCA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River.
- June 13-20** – Medford Cruise, Hawthorne Park, Medford.
- June 20** – SOCA Social, 6:00 P.M. Details to be determined.
- June 27-28** – Rooster Crow Weekend, Rogue River. Parade Saturday, 8:30 AM. Form up at Rogue River Shopping Center.
- June 30** – National Corvette Day.

For additional events, information and links, go to the S.O.C.A. website Events Page

<http://www.sovette.com/default.asp?pg=activities>



## Corvette History & Trivia C1 -Roger's Corvette Center

### Pre-Production Trivia...

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- In 1951 a group of Harley Earl's "Special Projects" crew began work on a GM sports car. Bob McLean designed a general layout for the car which was originally code named, "Opel."
- William Durant, the founder of GM, said a wallpaper pattern he saw in a Paris hotel in 1908 inspired the bow tie logo. Supposedly, he ripped off a small piece of it and brought it back to Detroit.
- Myron Scott, at the time Chevrolet's Chief photographer, is credited with coming up with the Corvette name, drawing from the small, fast warships of the "Corvette" class.
- The Jaguar XK120 is believed to have been the inspiration for the first Corvette.
- The Corvette was the first and last car with a true "wrap-around" windshield.
- Corvette was not the first to be made with a fiberglass body, but it was the first to be built by a company the size of Chevrolet.
- Corvettes have been assembled in three different cities. Flint, Michigan, St. Louis, Missouri, and Bowling Green, Kentucky.
- While many were involved in its design and production, Belgium-born Zora Arkus-Duntov is generally considered to be the "Father" of the Corvette.

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### C1 ... The first generation "solid axle" Corvettes... [1953 - 1962](#)

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- The original front emblem and horn button on the "Autorama" show circuit Corvette featured crossed American and checkered flags. It was later discovered that using an American flag on a product trade mark was against the law and the emblem was changed shortly before the New York Motorama.
- On Tuesday, June 30, 1953 Corvette #1 Serial Number E53F001001 rolled off the assembly line, and Corvette production began.
- Want the rarest Corvette? In 1953 the first two Corvettes, VIN Numbers 1 and 2 were said to have been destroyed, but no records prove that fact and there are no witnesses to the destruction. Who knows? They still might be out there somewhere.
- The first Corvettes were literally "rolled" off the assembly line. The early production line was not prepared for grounding to a fiberglass body and thusly the first cars would not start.
- The first five Corvettes to come off the assembly line did not have an outside rear view mirror.
- Its radical fiberglass body was the only really new component on the 1953 Corvette. Everything else was directly off the Chevrolet parts shelf. Because of this, the first Corvette was essentially a regular 1952 Chevrolet under the skin.
- Of the 300 (some sources argue 314) Corvettes hand built in 1953 only 183 were sold because of "average" performance at a relatively high price, \$3513. The popular Jaguar XK120 sold for \$3345; \$168 less than the Corvette.
- 1953 Corvettes were offered in any color you wanted... as long as it was Polo White with Red interior.



- A heater and an AM radio were the only Regular Production Options (RPO) offered with 1953 Corvettes.
- Production moved to the St. Louis facility for the 1954 model year.
- New 1954 exterior color options of black, blue, and red were added along with an optional beige interior choice.
- Although the Powerglide transmission was listed as a \$178 option, no 1954 Corvette was ever shipped with a manual transmission.
- The 1955 Corvette finally achieved "true" sports car status with the introduction of 265 cubic inch, 195 hp V-8 engine and 3-speed manual transmission.
- To commemorate the new V-8 engine, 1955 Corvettes featured an enlarged, gold "V" in the "Corvette" script on the front fender panels.
- There are 13 vertical bars or "teeth" are in the grill of 1956 Corvettes.
- One of the few ways to differentiate between a 1956 and 1957 Corvette without opening the hood is to look at the inside rear view mirror. On the 1956 model, it adjusts with a thumbscrew, on the 1957 adjustment requires a wrench to loosen the locknut.
- The 1957 Corvette was the first mass produced American automobile to offer 1 horsepower per cubic inch of engine displacement (283hp/283ci).
- The "Polo White" color was last used in 1957.
- 1957 was the first year a limited slip differential and fuel injection were offered as options.
- For the first time since its introduction, the '58 Corvette came with factory-installed seat belts.
- 1958 was the last year of a tachometer which kept track of "cumulative engine revolution counter" a feature which first appeared in the 1953 Corvette. In 1958 the tach was used on 230, 245, and 250 hp cars but not on the 270 and 290 hp cars. The Part number is #1548631 for 1958 models.
- Optional engines in 1956 had 9 fin alloy valve covers, 1957 had 7 or 9 fin alloy valve covers, and the 1958 had 7 fin alloy covers on optional engines.
- Before 1958, the only acrylic lacquer paint used was on the "Inca Silver" Corvettes.
- 1959 was the only year that turquoise soft tops were available.
- Sun visors (called "sunshades") became a Corvette option in 1959.
- Nylon belted tires first became available on the 1960 Corvette, prior to 1960 only cotton ply tires were offered.
- The 1961 Corvette was the last year to feature "wide whitewall" tires.
- The 1961 Corvette dropped the "round" nose emblem of previous years in favor of the word "CORVETTE" spelled out as individual letters.
- The trademark chrome grill teeth disappeared forever in 1961, to be replaced by a fine mesh screen in the radiator opening.
- 1962 Was the last of the solid rear axle Corvettes and the last year for the power top on the convertible.



**Disclaimer** - Discretion is advised. The preceding information may not apply to specific vehicles or all circumstances. Always refer to the manufacturer's specifications, service manuals, technical data and product information.

