



Southern Oregon Corvette Association

March 2026
Newsletter



March 2026 NEWSLETTER

Club Social

The Club Social is at Casa Vieja on March 21 at 6pm at 959 Medford Center in Medford. For more information, see the “Events” section (page 5) and the “Activities” section (page 11) for details.

Upcoming Meetings

General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, **6:30 p.m.** at the Rogue River Community Center, 132 Broadway Street, Rogue River.

Visitors are always welcome!

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 interests.
- Sponsor or participate in activities to benefit the community through recognized charities as selected by the members of the Association.

SOCA Logo Apparel

Competitive Athletics, 105 NE 7th St., Grants Pass
(541) 479-1001

OFFICERS:



Elected Officers

President: Ron Howard
Vice-President: Dan Smith
Secretary: Debbie Simons
Treasurer: Cathy Cardoza
Sgt-at-Arms: Gar Stevens
Membership: Charles Simons

Appointed Positions

Sunshine: Sandee Anderson
Activities: Kim Moore
Communications: Gar Stevens
Internet Site: Sharon Hook-Martino, Elaine Ellis
Parade Coord: Kerry Razza
Natl Corvette Museum: Len Atlas
Facebook:: Tammi Moore
Newsletter: Rob Hill

**BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES:**



March Birthdays

Allen, David	Markley, Toni
Anderson, Sandee	McKay-Andrews, Carmela
Atlas, Marga	Miller, Maryanne
Bozarth, Paul	Miranda, Robin
Czerniak, Stan	Myers, Terry
Ellis, Jim	Ophus, Tonjie
Estremado, Dan	Smith, Patrick
Cathy Franklin	Uhlenkott, Gioia

March Anniversaries

John & Sandra Castle
Mathew & Laurina Lounsbury
Larry & Margaret Stefanick
Paul & Gioia Uhlenkott
Florin & Elizabeth Baldrige

EVENTS:



2025 Southern Oregon Corvette Association (SOCA) Events

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Club meeting (Wed.)	7	4	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2

All dates below are Saturdays, except as noted ... The dates shown are tentative and subject to change or cancellation.

- *Mar 4th – Membership Meeting at Rogue River Community Center at 132 Broadway St, Rogue River, 6:30pm
- *Mar 21st – SOCA Social at Casa Vieja, 959 Medford Center, Medford, at 6pm
- *Mar 28st -- The Torpedoes Band at Corvette Bar & Grill, 1831 NE Sixth St, Grants Pass, 7:30-10:30pm

For additional events, information, and links ... see the SOCA website “Events Page:” <https://www.sovette.com/events>

Remember to take photos at SOCA events, send them to Sharon Hook, and selected photos will appear here on the sovette.com website!



PHOTO GALLERY



WWW.SOVETTE.COM



106 NW F St. # 222, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
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The Torpedoes at Corvette Bar & Grill on February 28, 2026



ACTIVITIES:



2025 Southern Oregon Corvette Association (SOCA) Activities

- * Mar 4th – Membership Meeting at Rogue River Community Center at 132 Broadway St, Rogue River, 6:30pm
- * Mar 21st – SOCA Social at Casa Vieja, 959 Medford Center, Medford, at 6pm
- * Mar 28st -- The Torpedoes Band at Corvette Bar & Grill, 1831 NE Sixth St, Grants Pass, 7:30-10:30pm
- * Apr 1st – Membership Meeting at Rogue River Community Center at 132 Broadway St, Rogue River, 6;30pm
- * Apr 11th – Pear Blossum Parade (Medford)
- * Apr 18th – SOCA Social at Corvette Bar & Grill, 1831 NE Sixth St, Grants Pass at 6pm, featuring The Torpedoes
- * Apr 18th – Rod and Custom Car Show (Medford)
- * May 9th? – TC Chevy Car Show

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Best Generation Ever?

Not everyone **loves the C8 Corvette**. Some dislike the looks, the fact that it comes with only an **automatic transmission**, or they feel the engine should be upfront. Those are justifiable, albeit subjective reasons. However, there is one thing that can't be disputed about the C8.

The performance.

The C8 has moved the Corvette performance into another realm. To illustrate this point, we found 10 records that the C8 generation has smashed. This includes outright records as well as comparisons to previous generations. These will show just how thoroughly the C8 dominates.

However, not even the mighty C8 is perfect. We also included one thing that C8 doesn't do as well as the generation before it. And this is an objective fact that can't be denied. Do you think you know what it is? Keep reading to find out.



Ten Records Broken By the C8 Corvette

1. America's Quickest Production Car – ZR1X

In October of 2025, the C8 Corvette ZR1X completed the quarter mile in 8.675 seconds at 159 mph. 0 to 60 mph took just 1.68 seconds. This was on a prepped surface, but on pump gas and regular street tires. That made it not only the quickest Corvette of all time, but the quickest American production car of all time. The C7 ZR1 is about a second and a half slower to 60 mph and in the quarter mile. Not even close.

1. America's Quickest Production Car
– ZR1X



2. Fastest American Cars at Nürburgring – ZR1 / ZR1X

Last July, the C8 ZR1 blitzed the Nürburgring with a time of 6:50.763. The ZR1X was even quicker with a time of 06:49.275. These times are quicker than any other American production car. The best unofficial lap time of the C7 ZR1 was 7:04. That is not even in the same stratosphere as the C8 cars.



Ten Records Broken By the C8 Corvette

3. Five Lap Records at American Tracks – ZR1

A little over a year ago, Chevrolet announced that the C8 ZR1 had set lap records at five different U.S. tracks. The times were as follows: Watkins Glen Long Course: 1:52.7. Road America: 2:08.6. Road Atlanta: 1:22.8. Virginia International Raceway Full Course: 1:47.7. Virginia International Raceway Grand Course: 2:32.3. The five records were set with four different drivers.



4. Highest Corvette Top Speed – ZR1 and ZR1X

The C8 Corvette ZR1 and ZR1X have an official top speed of 233 mph. That makes them the fastest cars that GM has ever produced. The C7 ZR1 topped out at 212 mph. Blazing fast for sure, a speed most of us won't experience on the ground. But well shy of what the C8 can do.

Want to know what else is slower than the C8 ZR1/X? The Ferrari F80, Lamborghini Revuelto, Aston Martin Valhalla and McLaren Artura. If you want to go faster than the C8 ZR1/X, you will need a Rimac Nevera and over \$2 million.

4. Highest Corvette Top Speed – ZR1 and ZR1X



5. Quickest Lightning Lap Ever – ZR1

At the end of February, *Car and Driver* announced the results of their annual **Lightning Lap competition**. The C8 ZR1 was not just the fastest car this year. It was faster than the 350+ other cars that have taken part in the Lightning Lap competition over the past 20 years. The C8 ZR1 took the trophy away from the \$1 million+ McLaren Senna. The speed of the C8 ZR1 is almost impossible to believe.



6. C8 Stingray vs C7 Stingray Lap Times

But you don't need a ZR1 to go fast in a C8 Corvette. The regular C8 Stingray can embarrass plenty of cars, including the C7 Stingray. In 2019, *Car and Driver* tested the **C8 Stingray against a C7 Stingray** at Grattan Raceway. Both had the Z51 package. The C8 turned a best lap of 1:26.1, the C7 a 1:27.0. Nearly a full second around a 2.2-mile course is a significant gap. After just a handful of laps, the C7 driver would not even be able to see the C8.



7. Horsepower – C2 Z06 vs C8 Z06

We could compare just about any C8 model to any previous generation and the C8 would come out on top. But we thought it would be interesting to compare the first Z06 Corvette to the most recent. A 1963 Z06 makes 360 horsepower. And that is gross horsepower. The C8 Z06 makes 670 net horsepower thanks to its 5.5L flat-plane crank LT6 engine. The C8 Corvettes are simply more powerful than any of the Corvettes before them.



8. Acceleration – C4 ZR-1 vs C8 ZR1

The 1990 Corvette ZR-1 is one of the most important Corvettes in history. It was a performance monster back in the day and put the Corvette on the path of supercar performance. And compared to the C8 ZR1, the C4 is a dog. Consider this, when ***Car and Driver* tested the C4 ZR-1** in 1990, it took nearly a minute to hit 150 mph. The C8 ZR1 takes just 23.8 seconds to reach 200 mph. We love the C4 ZR-1, but it may as well be an oxcart compared to the new car.



9. MPG – C4 Corvette vs C8 Stingray

For all of the performance advantages the C8 Corvettes have over the previous generations, they are also more fuel efficient. Take, for example, the base 1984 Corvette. According to the EPA, it is rated 13 mpg city, 20 highway, and 15 combined. The faster, more powerful, and heavier C8 Stingray is rated at 16 mpg city, 25 highway, and 19 combined.



10. Build Quality / Usability – C3 vs C8

The C3 Corvette generation is beloved for its beautiful looks and available big block engines. But if we are honest with ourselves, the build quality and interior materials leave a lot to be desired. The C8 Corvette just got an interior refresh for 2026 and looks better than ever. Build quality may not be at Rolls-Royce levels, but the C8 is well put together, and it uses materials far better than anything found in the C3 generation cars.



1. The Failure – Braking and Lateral Grip – C7 ZR1 vs. C8 ZR1

This may be surprising, but for all of the staggering performance that you get with the C8 ZR1, there are actually a couple of areas where it falls short of its predecessor. One area is braking. According to ***Car and Driver testing***, the C7 ZR1 stops from 70 mph to 0 in just 135 feet. The C8 ZR1 takes 140 feet. Still an amazing performance but a step back from the C7 ZR1 and just 2 feet shorter than even the C6 ZR1. Lateral grip is another area where the C7 ZR1 outshines the C8. Wearing Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 ZP tires the C7 ZR1 recorded 1.18 g's. The C8 ZR1 is good for 1.13 g's.

Saying this is a 'failure' of the C8 ZR1 is a bit harsh. The car is obviously an exceptional performer that can put together lap times unlike any other Corvette in history. But that just makes these individual results all that more surprising. This is really more about just how exceptional the C7 ZR1 is than any real shortcoming with the C8.

