

FIRST CLASS GLASS

The Official Newsletter Of Santa Clara Corvettes



April 2020
Volume 45, Number 4



Remembering Our Friend- Don Harr

We received the news that a longtime Santa Clara Corvettes member and Corvette enthusiast, **Don Harr**, has passed away on March 17, 2020. **Don** was an active member of our club from the mid 1980's to the late 2000's. In the 80's & 90's **Don** wrote many technical articles for *First Class Glass* and was an avid auto-cropper, drag racer and car show participant. Many long-term members of our club will remember he and his wife **Cathy** owned "Blue Boy" a beautiful C2 Corvette with so many tastefully done modifications. It won "Peoples Choice" at Corvette Spectacular and top awards at many Bay Area Corvette shows. **Don** also campaigned his highly modified C3, named "Sharkee," which was always one of the fastest Corvettes at the Vette Magic Drags. He was also the leader of "Shark Racing,"

and you probably remember seeing that on the window header of some local Corvettes.

We appreciate the many contributions **Don** made to Santa Clara Corvettes over the years and express our condolences to his family and friends.

GOD SPEED, **Don Harr**

Keith Mendia

Historian, Santa Clara Corvettes 3/22/2020



What is happening with the "C8 Watch" Now?

Here is the latest info I was able to find out on the C8 Watch. At the time of this writing, GM has stopped the production builds and no date has been determined for workers to go back to work because of coronavirus shelter-in-place and social distancing restrictions. They are taking this time to do what they call "Deep Cleaning" throughout the plant. However, it is rumored the National Corvette Museum is closed to the public but they are doing Museum pick up the rest of the week. After that if you have a C8 on order you are going to wait. After the strike was over we all thought we would be seeing C8s showing up at our local dealerships to have a peek before the owners pick up. So

now what? We can use YouTube to get acquainted with the all new C8 options and how to use them. I found this YouTube video that has got some details that you can use to decide how you would order your new C8.

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZT3hyhao-o> and take notes so when your C8 arrives you will know how to locate options and how to use some of those cool basic options.

Stay tuned for more to come on the latest C8 Watch.

Geno Brickey

President - Greg Selzer



What a month.

The old saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb seems to have taken on a whole new meaning this year.

During the week leading up to our last Business meeting on March 4th the rapidly worsening COVID-19 epidemic had us scrambling to figure out a safe way to have our Business meeting. Afterwards, in order to determine what events we could still have and which ones needed to be cancelled the effort continued as we tried to keep up with the quickly changing Santa Clara County Public Health Department recommendations and directives. Now at the end of March we are all living under a Shelter in Place directive and all of our events have been cancelled for the next couple of months-at least.

So it looks like Santa Clara Corvettes is going 'virtual' for now. As we all adjust to our new living arrangements I'm hearing about some creative things that clubs of all kinds are doing to stay connected with each other. For our part, SCC will be using online conferencing for the April 1st Business meeting and I understand that there are phone

apps that people are using to arrange regular meetings with friends to enjoy video 'happy hours'. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention and I expect that some good will come from all this. If you've figured out another fun way to pass the time, pass it along.

To provide a thread of continuity through these changing times, the Board has decided to continue producing FCG every month but we are currently unable to get it printed. So for the time being FCG will only be available on our website.

If you would like to submit an article please pass it along to **Geno** and **Steve**. Even if it is not car related but is a positive experience you had related to all this, I'm sure we all would enjoy it.

So take good care of yourselves while we work through all this. I'm sure that we'll be able to share some good stories when it's all over. Don't forget to thank the doctors and nurses when you can, as well as all the other Essential Service people delivering and providing all the goods that we need.

Greg

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A thanks to our Club Member Photographers:
Dave Johnston Sandy Mendia Gary Linford
Robert Courtney Blair Barbour Romulo Rimando
Malcolm Lawton Gary Leighton Teri Brickey

Wanted
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Contact: Geno Brickey
geno116@sbcglobal.net
Steve Wells
corvette@wizardtechlab.com

About the Cover - Donna & Robert Courtney's 2006 Z51 convertible. Exterior is Monterey Red, interior in two tone Black and light gray, it is a 6 speed stick. Purchased new, now with about 69K miles. Never go to the dealers when you're sick, you may end up with a new car as happened with this one. Mostly stock, modified air cleaner assembly, roller rocker arms, adjustable shocks and rear spoiler. This car has been our favorite for road trips, just don't put too much in the trunk if you want the top down.



Welcome!

Al Thompson - Membership Director

Greetings Santa Clara Corvettes!!!!

Well, here we are in April and it is an April like no other as the impacts of the Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 are playing out all around us. Car shows, TGIT, Cars and Coffee events

have been cancelled. Road trips and Spring Socials have been postponed. Santa Clara Corvettes and car enthusiasts worldwide have had to put the brakes on in-person events to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

In this season of "no contact" here are some ways we can continue to support each other and stay connected:

1. Utilize social media. Social media has several virtual or no contact tools. Make sure all your personal information is current (phone, mailing address, email) as virtual meetings are on the horizon.
2. Share tips and tricks on how you keep your ride road ready and post a video.
3. Take pictures of your car and send them to a few members. Have them vote for their favorite. Send your favorites to the publication team, they can always use the pictures for First Class Glass.

4. Reach out to new members and introduce yourself and schedule a FaceTime chat session for a follow up so they can put a name with a face.

5. Set up a Group FaceTime with other members by opening an existing group chat in the messages and tap on the group, hit the FaceTime icon.

6. If your car needs service, reach out to our vendor partners or sponsors, they may have a no contact service offering and I am sure they would appreciate the business during this time.

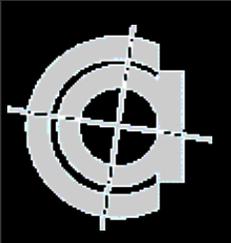
This past month we have on our Roster 170 members. As we enter April 8 new memberships bringing our total to 178 members.

Let us welcome in a unique way our newest members: **Bob and Lisa Palermini, Devin Pauley and Ashley Kennedy, Joe Silva and Vanessa Collins, Bexter Yang and Joy Nguyen.**

Making sure we stay connected and engaged safely over the next few months will be different as will adjusting our lives in these rapidly changing times. So try one of the ways I mentioned or feel free to suggest and share how you stay connected.

Take care and remember what's behind you doesn't matter.

Al Thompson



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Social Directors

Cheryl Klynn & Linda Lariz



Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition, or the Coronavirus.

This is not the article we expected to write this month, but...

It's difficult to plan fun and informative events for our members. The Drive for Pi, our tour of the Mozart Automobile Museum, lunch at Michael's at Shoreline, and our TGIT at Casa Lupe.

It's even more difficult to have to cancel our events and disappoint ourselves and our members.

We spent much of March 11 and 12 scrambling as a Board of Directors to make good judgments about how to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak and how it would affect not only Santa Clara Corvettes, but also those WSCC affiliates who had planned to join our tours and events.

But, nonetheless, hard decisions were made and followed up on.

Event locations were understanding and cooperative. All agreed that public health safety takes precedence over fun times.

A couple of side stories. I had met with the Catering Director of the Café at Shoreline. He was happy to oblige SCC for lunch after our Mozart tour, reserving tables either inside or out for 40 people, depending on the weather. Doug's one concern was of us making a lot of noise and doing burn outs and such in the parking lot. I told him that was definitely not an issue. We agreed that we would have lunch and be on our way by 2:00. Michael's was hosting a large wedding and reception on site starting at 2:30 that afternoon. It was cancelled—imagine the impact on the bride and groom. Somehow it

makes our cancellation (or delay) seem trivial. He did tell me that when things are back to normal, that couple will have the BEST wedding ever.

As for the Drive for Pi. Two weeks before the event, I got a voicemail from a woman wanting to know about the Drive for Pi and asking that I call her. I checked the member roster. Nope, not a member, possibly a new recruit? Turned out during our conversation she revealed she belongs to another car club in the Bay Area (Italian, starts with an "F", not Fiat). They too were driving on Pi Day. Coming down the coast from Marin with Gizdich being a stop for lunch at 1:00 PM. Basically, she asked me (in the nicest possible way) to be out of there by 1:00 so her club could have our reserved parking!!! We had a nice conversation as we had many mutual friends from my time in that "F" club. Email followed. I replied in the nicest possible way that we should just enjoy one another's cars, and I wouldn't guarantee that we would be gone by 1:00.

I had a follow-up conversation with Gizdich, and my contact there was quite upset. She said we should stay as long as we wished. I'm considering planning a "Double Pi Day" on June 28. More to follow.

The hardest event for us to cancel was our TGIT at Casa Lupe. When I called, they were not at all surprised and were very nice.

As we chart these unknown waters, let's remember those who agree to host us. Many of them are losing customers, cutting hours, and losing wages (tips help everyone in a business, not just the servers). Let's be kind, considerate, and generous. Most of all—be healthy.

Cheryl and Linda

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CORVETTE

Bits from the Pits - C8 News Flash

Reprint from the Corvetteblogger.com

MotorWeek Bestows Two Awards on the 2020 Corvette Including Drivers' Choice Best of the Year

By

[Mitch Talley](#)

-

Feb 7, 2020

2580



At the 2020 Chicago Auto Show, MotorWeek Creator and Host John Davis (left) presents the MotorWeek Drivers' Choice "Best of the Year" Award to Steve Majoros, director of Chevrolet passenger car and crossover marketing.

Chalk up two more awards for the [2020 Corvette Stingray!](#)

MotorWeek has just named the new mid-engine Chevy not only as its Best Performance Car of 2020, but also its Best of the Year overall.

Now if you didn't see that one coming, clearly you haven't been paying attention," *MotorWeek* says.

They praised the new C8 for more than just its revolutionary mid-engine design, citing the all-new LT2 engine that produces 495 horsepower and 470 lb-ft of torque and its "impressively smooth and quick" eight-speed dual-clutch transmission.

"Some may have wished for more HP, or some power adders, and we're sure they're coming sooner rather than later," *MotorWeek* predicts. "But, until then, you'll have to deal with taking a full 2.9-seconds to get to 60, the fastest ever for an entry-level Corvette."

Of course, the whole point behind the move of the engine behind the driver was to improve handling, and *MotorWeek* praised the sharper steering and overall response created by the switch. "Now all of that means nothing if the driving experience doesn't improve as well, and trust us, it has," *MotorWeek* says. "You now sit much closer to the front wheels, and forward visibility is unparalleled, giving you a great view of the road ahead as well as everything around it rushing by you."

The "tech-savvy cockpit that is truly super-car worthy" attains "a very inviting new level of comfort for Corvette," creating "an impressively quiet car to spend time in," they said.



MotorWeek 2020 Drivers' Choice "Best of the Year" Award for the Chevrolet Corvette Stingray

That comfortable interior is great news for owners who want to do extensive road tripping, *MotorWeek* reports, further praising Chevy's "great strides" to make sure there is plenty of luggage space.

But the biggest win of all, *MotorWeek* says, is that despite all of these improvements, GM kept the price to an attainable level below \$60,000.

They noted that it's "nearly impossible" for the new Corvette to live up to all of the hype it has received, "yet that is just what the mid-engine 'vette has done," *MotorWeek* says.

"The Corvette has always offered supercar-like performance on a muscle-car budget, despite carrying the weight of its power-plant directly over the front wheels," they conclude. "So, there's no telling where things can go from here; and we can't wait to find out!"

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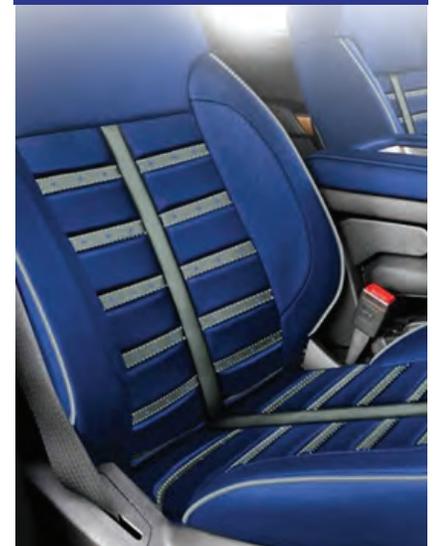
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Gary & Nancy Linford Trip to Sensorio in Paso Robles

On January 18th, **Nancy** and I headed to Paso Robles for a weekend of wine tasting and to see the art exhibit called Sensorio. The Field of Light by Bruce Munro which has toured around several places and has been in Paso Robles

for a while now and has been extended by the shows popularity into the spring. It's been described by The New York Times as "a light safari in wine country". The



walk-through artist scape covers 15 acres with something like 58,000 glowing stemmed spheres. The artwork is powered via solar panels and batteries. Fiber optics distribute the light from I assume a LED bulb to the many "light flowers". The color of each light source changes in time. Pictures don't do the artwork justice, as it has much more impact in person. *Gary Linford*



C6 Fob Follies

Some things to try when the Fob Fails...

How to become "fobulous" once again

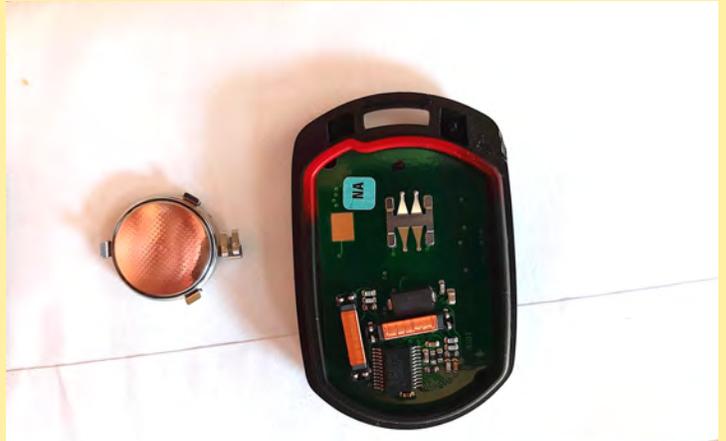
Several months ago, I opened the door and got in my 2005 car as normal. When I pushed the start button, instead of the usual roar of 400 horsepower, I heard a buzz/crackling coming from the area of the start button. I had the same problem with both of my fobs. At first, I thought I just needed a new battery in the fob. I replaced the battery and the same thing happened. If I put the fob in the glove box slot, sometimes it would start. When it would start, it would be with its normal vigor. When I would come home and was ready to shut it off, it would say no fob detected.

Now I was worried, and thought the problem was something behind the dash, maybe a computer. Thinking this would be expensive, I thought it was worth some sleuthing on the internet before taking it to a dealer and spending a small fortune. The first articles were about two computers that control the door opening and the car starting. Finally, I found an article that pointed out the fob batteries you buy online may come DOA, and you need to check their voltage. It also said you should disassemble the fob and use electrical contact cleaner in the PC board.

Using my voltmeter, I found the battery had the proper voltage. I disassembled the fob and found the battery holder appears to be chrome, and a finger projects from it to contact a copper rectangle on the PC board. Once I

sprayed the board with electrical contact cleaner and reassembled the fob it worked flawlessly!

My thought is that after 14 years, there was some corrosion between the dissimilar metals, although none



was seen visually. I no longer take the push button start for granted, even though it starts every time. I hope you don't encounter this problem, but if you do, a spray can of electrical contact cleaner is a less than \$10 solution!

Malcolm Lawton

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Reprint of Cartoon Ad for SCC first car show published in "The Winner" newsletter on September 1977





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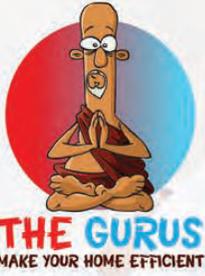
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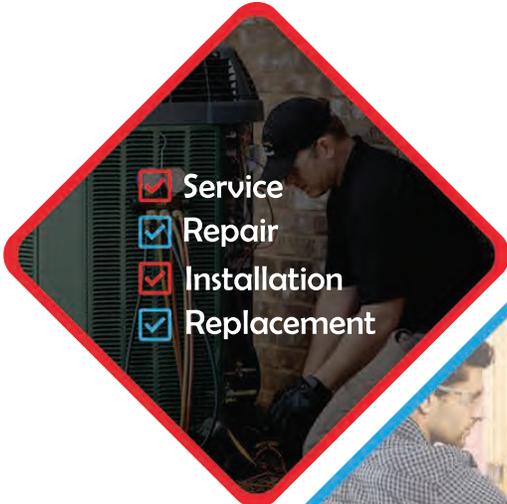
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What's News



For most of February, the Courtney's enjoyed an amazing and spectacular cruise to the "end of the world". The major destinations were Argentina, Antarctica and Chile. With an abundance of animal sightings, there were Humpback whales, sea lions and of course, penguins, here, there and everywhere! The vistas of snow and ice capped mountains and glistening glaciers were beyond belief. So now we have been to the

southernmost and northernmost cities in the world! And because of good timing and no virus, we had a good cruise with no resulting delays or a forced quarantine!

Bob and Donna Courtney

Every year since the early seventies, professional and amateur speed merchants bring their highly tuned offerings to compete in their favorite performance class in the 1/4 mile. The Famoso Raceway is located just east of Hwy 99, just 12 miles north of Bakersfield, California.

Each year since the late eighties, **Sandy** and **Keith Mendia** have raced their cars at raceways like Sear's Point, Sacramento raceway, various Good Guys sponsored events, and even as far afield as Pomona Raceway in SoCal. Starting in the early nineties, they ventured south to these very same Famoso proving grounds to race their vehicles in these drags of vintage dragsters and enjoy the camaraderie of friends and fellow competitors. They both enjoyed racing **Keith's** 1960 Corvette, veteran of SCC' Autocross wars. **Sandy** acquired her own HR car (hot rod class), Bubba, a 1935 Plymouth chassis enveloping a brutish 550 hp engine. Both **Sandy** and **Keith** are members of the legendary Juggers race club that got its start in the South San Francisco area in the early fifties. These folks really know their engines and know how to get their cars to the quarter mile finish line. Many of these team members are still racing in their 80's! All are wonderful, interesting and friendly people that care for each other and their cars. **Sandy** has raced Bubba nearly every year since the mid-nineties until present time. Her race class draws well over 100 entries every year and competition is fierce. **Sandy** won the hot rod class in 1994, 1996, and in 2003; these trophies are highly prized! **Keith** won the street machine class in 1994 and was runner up in 1993 and 1995!

Keith and **Sandy** always encourage members of the SCC to come down to Famoso to enjoy the show and meet some wonderful people. This Vintage Drag car event usually takes

place the first weekend in March. **Dave** and **Nicole Wilson** and I had the pleasure to join them this year. Tickets are available at the gate (this year's price was \$35 per day, \$100 for 3 days) Please come and book your hotel room early at the Wasco Best Western Hotel otherwise one might have to stay, let's say, at a lesser establishment where ice is not free and entertainment is audible through the paper-thin walls.

Growing up in a rural farming community 40 miles WNW of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, it might shock you to know



that this Crazy Canuck hayseed "purestocked" (street machine class?) his mother's 1970 Firebird 400 running in the high 15's and I wasn't drunk...the rest of the time I was usually in rare Canuck form (when driving home, people would always say, "just keep it between the posts")! In the early seventies, I had the great fortune to go to various NHRA Eastern Grand National events with great friends who purchased an old school bus, officially named "Le Bus". Half-filled with seats and the rest, beer...we partied hardy, ...but we also had the great fortune to see the likes of "Big Daddy" Don Garlits and "The Snake" Don Prudhomme in their top fuelers and funnies.

Please come out next March and join the fun! Remember, we are not getting any younger, and... we can't party like we use to, but...if we can get past our present national crisis,..and, I know we will...y'all will have a great time!!

Blair Barbour

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A Difficult Start to our Autocross Season

As you all probably know, we postponed our March 28-29 Autocross at the Cow Palace due to the Coronavirus. We will reschedule this event and others as dates become available and our world returns to some sort of normalcy. This was done out of great respect for the good health of all of our club members and guests. With all of the events getting cancelled at the Cow Palace, it's possible that some additional weekends may become available whenever this pandemic is declared over.

Refunds have been issued to all who pre-registered on MotorsportsReg.com for the Autocross. Please join me in thanking **Stuart Calhoon** for steadfastly insuring that everyone was taken care of. He put in a tremendous amount of extra work.

In the near term, we will have to be satisfied with "Bench Racing" on the phone, text or E-mail with our SCC friends. If you are working on your car and need some input, please reach out to any of us.

In the "Good News" Department, the Cow Palace is planning on a repaving project for the South Lot where our Autocross events take place. **Rick Bronner** is working to provide input for this project. There are a number of potholes, small sinkholes, drainage ditches that need more than just repaving, based on a review of the site done recently.

TRACK DAYS - In the track day department, Hooked on Driving has cancelled / put on hold their near-term events out through April 13. Of immediate interest to SCC drivers, they cancelled the annual luncheon and tour of the foothills scheduled for Wed, April 29, in Williams & Stonyford, CA. But the Hooked-on-Corvettes track day on April 30, nor the HOD 5-mile event on May 1, have not been cancelled or put on hold as of now. Stay tuned for updates as we get closer.

Collins and Stuart



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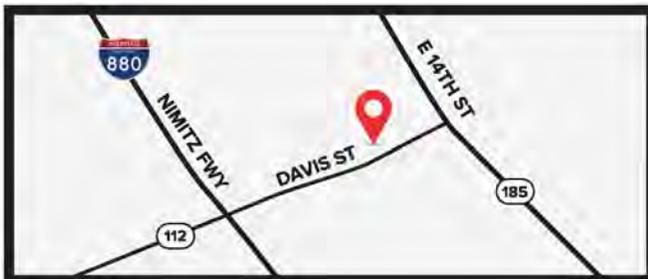
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Romulo Rimando: Competition Car Show

April is National Car Care Month

The month of April is National Car Care month. Whether you drive a newer Corvette, a timeless classic, or just a daily

driver – maintenance is everyone’s responsibility.

Proper car maintenance, and basic care is a wise investment to prolong the life, and performance of ones vehicle.

Following manufacturer’s scheduled maintenance - changing oil, fluids, and regular inspection of brakes/ belts/ hoses/ batteries / shocks will prevent breakdown, or even costly repairs. Even tune-ups, correct air pressure, and tire rotations can improve gas mileage; ensuring your

vehicle is safe for your family. If you are not sure, car care centers offer multi-point inspections if you are uncertain on what your vehicle needs.



Maintenance can be expensive, however be aware

of dealer cost, and discounts from national outlets such as AAA, Sears, Firestone, Pep Boys, Midas, and Walmart who offer excellent incentives for ‘a la carte services, or package deals. Some car care centers such as Firestone even offer lifetime services that are quite a bargain since they are good for the duration you own a vehicle (for most vehicles). Know your vehicle, and when and what services are required, specialized tools may be needed, and equipment for specific makes, or models. Be aware that

Santa Clara Corvettes has sponsors that can also help with many of these service intervals, and offer expert advise if you have questions.

Performing scheduled maintenance is also a requirement for many new vehicles. Many dealers will only honor their warranty if recommended maintenance has been performed. Don’t be turned away from the dealer because of unapproved modifications, or not completing scheduled maintenance; often most new vehicles include these services (at no cost) for the first few years, and may also include a rental car – check on what is included for your specific make, or model vehicle(s).



In addition, to your engine - don’t forget to care for your vehicle’s exterior finish. Car paint should also receive care, which includes: regular cleaning, clay bar, and wax. Taking these steps will extend your car’s finish and keep the shine looking brand new. Just like cleaning, and moisturizing your skin, it is essential for your paint’s life, and durability. There are many recommended detailers that can sell do-it yourself products, or provide special offers to polish, perform ceramic coating of your car’s paint finish. Yes, SCC even have sponsors that can assist you with exterior car care.

Remember caring for your car will help extend your vehicles life, and appearance. Regardless if you own a garage queen, or daily driver - your car care commitment equates to fun on the road, or at the show.

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SCC Upcoming Events!

APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1 Conference Call Business Meeting
- 5 Cancelled Corvette Car Care
- 12 Easter
- 18 Cancelled Nike Missile Drive
- 18 Cancelled Hooters Annual Car Show
- 19 Cancelled Trailer Clean-up & BBQ
- 23 Cancelled TGIT at Casa Lupe 5pm
- 25 Cancelled Vette Fair 2020 Car Show Lodi
- 26 Cancelled Pacific Coast Dream Car Show
- 29 Conference Call Board Meeting
- 29 Cancelled Drive to Thunderhill Lunch
- 30 Hooked on Corvettes at Thunderhill

- 1 Hooked on Driving Track Day
- 6 Business Meeting, TBD
- 9 Cancelled Legends Car Show
- 17 Cancelled Plastic Fantastic
- 27 Board Meeting, Starts at 6:30pm
- 30 Cancelled Audio Design Open House

*Some dates may be added after this goes to press so always check the sccorvettes.org website for the most current information.

April Birthdays

- 01 - Mark Noriega
- 04 - Gary Youngs
- 06 - Henry Crook
- 08 - Dot Shows
- 10 - John Lux
- 13 - Nancy Clarkin
- 15 - Gary Leighton
- 16 - Mariselva Barlow
- 16 - Bob Nastasi
- 17 - Jeff Bradford
- 26 - Harry Hsu



April Anniversaries

- 2005 - Lou Marincovich
- 2005 - Mishell Marmo
- 2011 - Eric Jacobsen
- 2011 - Robert King
- 2014 - Phil Moser
- 2017 - Cameron Brown
- 2017 - Tom Clarkin
- 2018 - Janet Radonich
- 2018 - Scott Radonich
- 2018 - Delia Rimando
- 2018 - Romulo Rimando
- 2019 - Gary Youngs
- 2019 - Christine Wisnet
- 2019 - Ken Edgar



"All I got was a chocolate bunny and some chocolate eggs."

