October 2013 Δ 0 Newsletter of the Discovery Bay Corvette Club wscc **Special Points of Interest Christmas Par-**• ty information New Board: • see President's **Corvettes at Murphys** article C-7 Article •







Inside this Issue			
	Page		
Minutes	6		
Sunshine	11		
Christmas Flier	15		

Discovery Bay Corvette Club Executive Board 2013

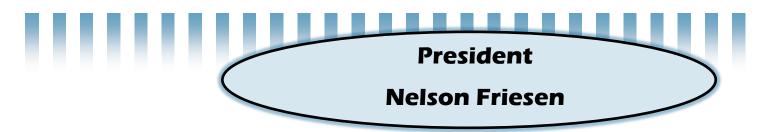
Officers

President	Nelson Friesen	925-516-1577	buginarug@msn.com
Vice President	Rich Allen	925-240-1055	richard.allen@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Brian Enbom	925-516-7712	benbom@coasttool.com
Secretary	Marilyn Allen	925-240-1055	marilyn.allen@sbcgobal.net
Events	Denise Zupan	510-326-2992	denisezupan@att.net
Publications	Susan Jones	707-374-5051	corvettesue322@yahoo.com
WSCC Rep.	Dick Realph	925-634-0729	vetbrat1@comcast.net
Public Relations	Elaine Stark	925-634-0503	<u>yelatoy@sbcglobal.net</u>
Quartermaster	Lowell Onstad	925-516-8468	ljonstad@comcast.net
Member-at-Large	Calvin Jones	925-301-7088	vettime322@yahoo.com

Appointed Positions

Webmaster	Ralph Cernera	925-240-5971	<u>ralphc@tcg-rep.com</u>
Sunshine Persons	Betty Silva &	925-634-5787	
	Sandy Ramos	925-634-6282	donsanramos@comcast.net
NCM Ambassador	David Harris	925-634-5691	<u>dhdisbay@yahoo.com</u>
Newsletter Ads	Susan Jones	707-374-5051	corvettesue322@yahoo.com

Meeting Schedule: First Thursday of each month,	Next Meeting:		
except when otherwise	noted.	November 7, 2013	
Location:	Discovery Bay Yacht Club		
Board Meeting	6:30 PM		
General Meeting 7:30 PM			
All members are urged to attend the meetings and guests are always welcome!			
Mailing address: PO Box 1158, Discovery Bay, CA 94505-1158			
www.discoverybaycorvettelub.com			



President's article for October, 2013

Fall is here and winter is just about upon us. So let's go out and enjoy the last runs of the year. We have our Inaugural in Sacramento, November 9th organized by our Member-at-Large, Calvin Jones. Hope you all made your hotel reservations. It will be a fun night. Then the Christmas run led by Dick and Bernie is December 1st to Tahoe Joe's. At the Christmas run the badges for the new 2014 DBCC board members will be given out. The last event of the year will be the Discovery Bay's lighted street parade on December 7th.

I'd like to thank Steve Gilpin for leading the run to Murphys this month. Due to my mobility concerns, I did not go on this run. Murphys is such a great little town, so I'm sure the participants had a good time and tasted some good wines.

The list of nominees to serve on the 2014 DBCC board was finalized at the October meeting. The nominees are:

President – Rich Allen

Vice President – Mark Zupan

Treasurer – Brian Enbom

Secretary – Steve Gilpin

Events - Neva Burdick

Publications – Laura Solis Hardt

Public Relations - Marilyn Allen

WSCC Representative – Lee Brant

Quartermaster - Diana Cernera

Since all the nominees are running without opposition, there is no need for a ballot this year. I wish to thank all the nominees for stepping forward to serve on the 2014 board.

STW





With October comes the end of summer, the end of WSCC Car shows and the voting in of the new board. Thanks to everyone who served on the outgoing Board for their help and support of the club. We still have some exciting events remaining for the year. The inaugural is set for Nov 9 at the Grand Sheraton in Sacramento. I hope to see everyone there. We have a Christmas brunch in December and will again be participating in the Discovery Bay parade of lights.

We voted in new members Roger & Mary Hodel and Al and Paula Sauvadon at the September meeting. Roger and Mary are currently waiting for their new C7 to be built and will be flying back to Bowling Green to pick it up next year. Welcome Roger, Mary, Al, and Paula.

With the end of the car show season, and the car runs winding down, this month provides some time to relax and get ready for the holidays. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years are on the way. Daylight savings time ends in November and it's probably time to put our 62 back in the garage for the winter. Football season has begun and basketball is just around the corner. All in all, our club had a fantastic summer with great runs and lot of fun. Thanks go to everyone who helped and supported the club this summer and we look forward to more great times next summer. WSCC convention will be held back in Medford again next year and Discovery Bay will be helping to put on a golf tournament. 2014 is also the year for the next caravan back to Bowling Green, Kentucky and the NCM reunion.

As always, I would like to hear from club members as to how you think we are doing as a board and what needs to be addressed (issues, activities, etc.). Only with your inputs can we make the club better. I will ensure that any and all inputs are taken to the board for discussion and personally get back to you with an answer. Please email me any of your inputs, issues, questions, or concerns. Richard.allen@sbcglobal.net

Rich Allen Live, Laugh, and Drive ... Make friends and have fun. See you around the curve



Calendar of Events

Sun. December 1 Christmas Luncheon, Bernie and Dick, Details TBD

Events

Denise Zupan

Sat. December 7 Street Parade of Lights, Committee Leaders; Marilyn and Patti

For All Car Shows & Events, refer to the WSCC Calendar of Events 2013



National Corvette Museum Raffles

The National Corvette Museum conducts a series of raffles each year as a way to raise funding for the day to day operations of the Museum.

"Our raffle fundraisers are a tremendous help to the Museum and a large part of our planning and daily operation funds," states NCM Executive Director, Wendell Strode. "We appreciate the help of everyone who helps us by purchasing and selling tickets."

All raffle winners will also enjoy the benefits and excitement of taking delivery of their new Corvette at the Museum as part of the "R8C Museum Delivery" experience. A VIP tour of the Museum and Corvette Assembly Plant, one-year individual membership to the Museum, hands-on training/instruction by a NCM delivery team member, program decal and a wall plaque are all part of the Museum Delivery experience that is available exclusively through the Museum. R8C deliveries are viewed world-wide via the Museum's <u>webcams</u>.

Winner must be 18 years old with a valid driver's license.

Licensed by the Kentucky Department of Charitable Gaming - License Number ORG0000854

Want to receive raffle ticket updates? Sign up to receive daily emails and/or text updates, sent days leading up to a raffle drawing!

Text Updates

Simply text **NCM** to **247411**. You will get a welcome. Reply with **NCMRAFFLE** to confirm your subscription. You may opt out at any time by texting **NONCMRAFFLE**. There are no additional fees for this service other than your normal messaging and data rates for your cell phone.

Email Updates

Sign up to receive emails from the National Corvette Museum! Our weekly eNews provides information not only on upcoming raffles and raffle winners, but also other happenings in the Corvette world! Our separate Raffle list gives ticket updates daily each week we are having a raffle. <u>Sign up here</u>.

Raffle Winners

Check out some of our past raffle winners!

Bookmark our Raffles!

dh





Minutes from the October 3, 2013 Meeting

<u>President, Nelson Friesen</u>, called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM. Nelson thanked Rich Allen and his committee for doing a great job planning the car show. He also thanked those that attended the Heritage High School Homecoming Parade at the Streets of Brentwood.

- <u>Vice President, Rich Allen,</u> welcomed Dave and Debbie Franklin and gave them their Name badges. He thanked everyone who attended and helped with the car show. It was a big success despite the reduced number of cars this year. He thanked his committee for all that they did to help make it a success. Total profit was around \$1,800 which was mainly due to the Raffle. That was our largest income from the show. He thanked Diana and everyone who helped her. He also gave credit to his co-chair Lee Brant for all his help and for doing such a great job with the circle of cars celebrating the 60 years of Corvettes. He stated that Kristen was very happy with our car club members and our car show. She encouraged us to come back next year. He went on to thank those that participated in the Heritage Homecoming Parade. We had 13 cars participating and it was a lot of fun. Roger and Mary Hodel have ordered their new 2014 Cherry Red Metallic Corvette. They will take delivery of it sometime in March. They will be flying to Bowling Green and driving their new car back.
- <u>Secretary, Marilyn Allen</u>, stated that she had made an error in the last minutes and said that Ralph Cernera was not present when in fact he was and had asked for all the members to complete their biographies for the Web site. She asked for approval of the minutes from the September meeting with the above correction. A motion was made and seconded to approve the September minutes. Motion passed.
- <u>Treasurer, Brian Enbom</u>, gave the treasurer's report which included most of the money made from the car show. Some checks have not cleared as yet. He will check into the dues reimbursement from WSCC and report at our next meeting. Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report for August. Motion passed.

Events, Denise Zupan, thanked all those who attend the car show and thanked Rich Allen for doing a great job planning it. She also thanked all who had participated in the Heritage Homecoming Parade. Steve Gilpin spoke about his upcoming run to Murphy's on October 5th and 6th. He is leaving the Chase Bank parking lot at 8:45 AM. The caravan will be making a stop in Copperopolis around 11:00 AM. Calvin reported that November 9th is our Inaugural held at the Grand Sheraton Hotel. Price of the dinner is \$65.00 per person. Members will only have to pay for one dinner if they are a couple or ½ of their dinner if they are single. The club will be picking up the rest of the bill. The rooms are \$109 per night and parking is \$18.00 per night. There will be a designated parking space for our cars. Members are encouraged to make their reservations. Members have until October 9th to make their room reservations and until October 14th to make their dinner reservations. The form to select your dinner choice is in the Newsletter and on our web site. Denise reminded everyone that she is collecting member pictures taken in the 60's 70's or 80's of either couples or singles. She needs these by the next meeting. The Christmas Brunch run is December 1st put on by Dick and Bernie Realph. Bernie reported that it would be at Tahoe Joe's in Vacaville. There will be 4 or 5 choices in meals. Price is \$13.00/\$14.00. We will meet at the Chase Bank parking lot. Lunch will be served at 11:00AM. The restaurant is in an outlet shopping center and so after lunch the women can go shopping and the men can sit in the "All Day Happy Hour" bar and watch the game. She is doing something different this year and is asking us to donate to several senior day care facilities. Lotions, gloves, hats, craft items and stuffed animal are things that they especially like. She requested that they be unwrapped. Marilyn passed out a sign up sheet for those interested in helping to plan or participate in the Lighted Land Parade. She stated that it was a difficult theme this year—"Miracle on Discovery Bay Blvd". All WSCC information about car shows, events and flyers on all our runs can be found on our website.

<u>Publications, Susan Jones,</u> was not present for the meeting but Calvin asked that everyone please submit their articles to her for the newsletter by the 15th of the month. He encouraged members to take pictures at any of the events and submit them to her as well.

Member at Large, Calvin Jones, gave his report regarding the Inaugural during the Events portion of the reports.

<u>WSCC Events Representative</u>, Dick stated that North Bay Corvette Club will be putting on the convention on July 6, 7, 8, and 9th and reminded us that the 7th was his and Bernie's Anniversary and Bernie's birthday. Our club is responsible for putting on the golf tournament. There was no meeting scheduled for September because of all the car shows. The next WSCC meeting will be in October.

NCM Representative, David Harris was not present.

Public Relations, Elaine Stark was not present.

Quatermaster, Lowell Onstad had no report.

- <u>Webmaster, Ralph Cernera,</u> was not present but Diana reported that he still needed the biographies for all the members to put on the web site.
- Sunshine, Betty Silva & Sandy Ramos, Betty reported there was some happy news. Laura Soliz and Jerry Hardt are getting married on October 12th at Marsh Creek Springs. Sandy reported that Ted Stark was in Kaiser Hospital to try and regulate his medications for Parkinson's. They do not know anything definite at this time. He enjoys having visitors but asked to please call first because he may be moved. Mary Hodel fell and broke her wrist. She will need surgery. Nelson's Dad was transported to Kaiser with trouble breathing. He is 91 yrs. Old. Lee Doty was present at the meeting and reported feeling much better. Even though he doesn't have Kaiser, they did some tests when he was brought in by ambulance and have found some things that they are dealing with. He was relieved to find he does not have bone cancer.
- <u>Old Business</u>, Nelson reported that Lee Brant asked to be considered for WSCC Representative. Denise nominated Steve Gilpin for Secretary. He accepted. Kathy Doty nominated Diana Cernera to be Quartermaster. She accepted.

Nelson stated that unless there are new additions to the list the following members will run unopposed and will be our new board for next year.

PresidentRich Allen	PublicationsLaura Soliz
Vice PresidentMark Zupan	Public RelationsMarilyn Allen
SecretarySteve Gilpin	WSCC RepLee Brant
TreasurerBrian Enbom	QuartermasterDiana Cernera
EventsNeva Burdick	Member At LargeNelson Friesen

Nelson stated that the formal vote will take place at our November 7th meeting two days before the Inaugural.

The following positions are appointed by the board and will be chosen next year by our new board: Sunshine, Webmaster, NCM Representative and a member assigned to do Newsletter Adds.

<u>New Business</u>, Rich showed a plaque he made from some old ones that were in the shed. They had the information from the different years of cars depicted on the large boards at our car show in the circle celebrating 60 years of Corvettes. Ten members said they would like one for their particular year of car. Lee suggested giving the two cars that came from quite a distance to participate in our "circle" one as a thank you.

The 50/50 raffles winner was Kathy Pimentel who won \$55.00

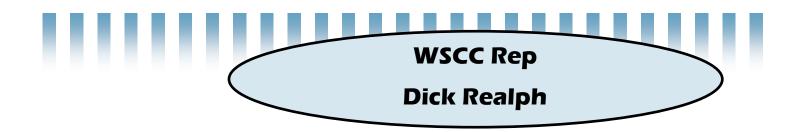
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Allen



Western States Corvette Council Calendar of Events-2013

June 1, 2013

Contrast of the local division of the local		_			
Date	Event Name/Location/Site	Туре	Sponsor	Contact	Phone
June					
2	Autocross Bartlett High School, Ak	v	TZR-1 Ak	Ron Ashcraft	907-333-8833
8	Car/Park Show Vette Magic 38-Rancho Cordova	IS	NCCA	Rob Andersen	650-534-6951
8	WSCC Gen. Business Meeting-Rancho Cordova	v	WSCC	Dan Divita	707-395-0153
9	Vette Magic Drags 38-Sacramento, Ca	v	NCCA	Bob Ashbaker	510-406-1274
15	Car/Park Show Vette-O-Rama 43-Concord, Ca	IS	DVC	Dave Spellman	925-678-4588
22	Autocross Onion Peel 26 Soloano College	IS	VVV	Rich Willhoff	530-318-0696
23	Autocross Nord Fjord 67 Soloano College	IS	NBCA	Larry Joseph	415-457-3979
July					
7	Autocross Bartlett High School, Ak	v	TZR-1 Ak	Ron Ashcraft	907-333-8833
13	WSCC Summer Gathering	v	WSCC	WSCC BOD	www.wscc.ws
20	Autocross Onion Peel 27 Soloano College	IS	VVV	Rich Willhoff	530-318-0696
21	Autocross Nord Fjord 68 Soloano College	IS	NBCA	Larry Joseph	415-457-3979
Aug					
3	SCC Autocross #2-Marina Airport, Marina, Ca	IIS	SCC	Stuart Calhoon	650-465-5523
11	SCC Autocross #3-Marina Airport, Marina, Ca	IIS	SCC	Stuart Calhoon	650-465-5524
16-18	Motorsports Reunion-Laguna Seca	v	WSCC	Buzz Marston	408-358-6211
17	Corvette 60th Annv. Banquet-Embassy Suites- Seaside, Ca	v	WSCC	Buzz Marston	408-358-6211
18	Autocross Alaska Raceway Park, Ak	v	TZR-1 Ak	Ron Ashcraft	907-333-8833
24	Car Show Glass Fantastic-Tracy, Ca	IS	GPC	Jim Neylan	925-676-1422
24	Autocross Onion Peel 28 Soloano College	IS	VVV	Rich Willhoff	530-318-0696
25	Autocross Nord Fjord 69 Soloano College	IS	NBCA	Larry Joseph	415-457-3979
Sept					
5-8	Lake Tahoe Tour 45-Fresno to Reno	v	COF	Jim Agar	559-297-2200
7-8	Grand Am Racing-Laguna Seca	v	WSCC	Buzz Marston	408-358-6211
8	Car/Park Show Summerfest 2013 Discovery Bay	IS	DBCC	Dick Realph	925-634-0729
14	Car/Park Show Salute 5-Fairfield Chevrolet	IS	CCC	Jeff Hills	760-960-7527
15	Autocross-Alaska Raceway Park, Ak	v	TZR-1 Ak	Ron Ashcraft	907-333-8833
22	Car/Park Show Corvette Spectacular-Los Altos	IS	SCC	Lee Kibbler	650-212-0098
Oct					
12	Autocross Onion Peel 29-Soloano College	IS	VVV	Rich Willhoff	530-318-0696
13	Autocross Nord Fjord 70-Soloano College	IS	NBCA	Larry Joseph	415-457-3979
19	SCC Autocross #4-Marina Airport, Marina, Ca	IIS	SCC	Stuart Calhoon	650-465-5523
20	SCC Autocross #5-Marina Airport, Marina, Ca	IIS	SCC	Stuart Calhoon	650-465-5523
23	WSCC/HOD/NCM Tour & Lunch	v	WSCC	Buzz Marston	408-358-6211
24		v	WSCC	Buzz Marston	408-358-6211
Cale	ndar of Events-2014				June1, 2013
Jan					
TBD	WSCC Year-end Awards Banquet	v	WSCC	WSCC	www.wscc.ws
Aug					
22-27	NCM Caravan-20th Anniversary	v	NCM/WSCC	Don Herzer	209-586-3079



The next WSCC meeting is on October 26th so there is no WSCC report this month. There will be one in the November newsletter.







Elaine has nothing to report this month since the car show is over and there are not any upcoming public events.



Now that the days are shorter and the nights are longer, it is time to check out the great jackets and long sleeved shirts that are available. They can be ordered with our without our beautiful DBCC logo. I have catalogs available at every meeting. Prices are great so check it out.

The jackets are especially warm and cuddly — perfect for sitting outside in the evenings or going for a ride with the top down. I also have some great hats so see me at the next meeting!





SUNSHINE

Approximately 3 weeks ago Mary Hodel broke her wrist after falling on an uneven pavement, and her arm is now in a cast. Mary, we send our wishes for a speedy healing process for you.

Laura Solis and Jerry Hardt announced at the meeting that they would be married on October 12th. Congratulations and a toast to them for a long and happy life together

Kathy Doty has indicated that Lee Doty's tests came out favorable and we think he looks remarkably well. It is hoped that Lee's condition will continue to improve.

Ted Stark is still in Kaiser Hospital in Antioch, but the family is waiting for a room to become available for him in a convalescent facility in San Leandro. Our heartfelt best wishes to Ted, Elaine and their family for a positive outcome in Ted's placement. Our prayers are with you.

Nelson Friesen's father had been in the hospital and is now in a convalescent facility. They will be given a prognosis of his condition in a few days. It is hoped that he will be able to return to his home in the Cortona assisted living facility.

A reminder to Joanne Onstad to supply treats for the November meeting.

Betty Silva and Sandy Ramos



Wilson Painting

Lic# 893012

1204 Landover Court Brentwood, CA 94513 Ph: 925-634-4690

Well it's time for me to say Good Bye as your Events Director

First; I want to thank <u>all our current Board Members</u> for all their time, effort and hard work they have done to continuously make our club so much fun and successful! Each and every one of you contributed in your own way to make our club fun and exciting.

Secondly; I had fun planning and working with <u>all of you who stepped up and volunteered to plan a run</u>. At each and every run we all had a great time driving there, eating, drinking, laughing and enjoying conversations with our members. In my opinion; that is exactly what our club is all about!

I would also like to say "Thank You" <u>To the entire club</u> for playing along with my silly games (better known by some as my "Sucker Punch"). As you can tell, I like to have fun and laugh in life and try not to take things so serious. I know some of you just thought I was tricking you into planning a run, and once you saw me coming with my little bags (and prizes) probably said to yourself, holy crap, here she goes again! I have to say that the very first game was exactly for that reason (DUH)! Then I realized that our members were actually having fun playing, laughing and watching others play, it became more than that. It seemed to make our meetings a bit more exciting and fun. Besides, who doesn't like to win things? Even if it's a cheap bottle of wine or a can of soup! OK for some of you, planning a run might not be considered a win, but you have to agree, it was fun!

I think it is time to pass the baton (as Events Director) on to someone else in our club so they too can have as much fun as I had. With a new person brings new ideas and that is always fun and exciting!

Lastly, I would like to <u>welcome all our new board members</u>. I look forward to even more fun runs and events in the future!

REMINDER TO ALL

Our club runs (no pun intended) on volunteers! From our board members, all the way to our members sponsoring runs, so without you stepping up to volunteer; there would be no Discovery Bay Corvette Club! So please, step up and be a part of your club by:

Attending the Monthly Meetings

Volunteering

<u>And</u>

Participating in the Events that are Planned



October & November Birthdays

Joe Pimentel	10/19
Lee Brandt	10/28
Diana Cernera	10/29
Gary Moreland	11/01
Calvin Jones	11/03

11/11
11/12
11/28
11/29



Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.



Email: LAFAUTOBODY@aol,com

3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-3421 Fax 925-283-3579

Randy Sandlin



This year I am doing something a little different, I'm collecting gifts for the less privileged Seniors at the Bedford Center Adult Day Health Care program in Antioch and the Adult care Program in Brentwood.

I have a list of items they really like and especially craft items. If purchasing craft items think about the elderly. They also have people who help them put things together.

If you are not going on the run and would like to donate something please call me and I will come by and pick any items you may have. I'm trying to get enough gifts to help both of these facilities.

Some of these fall into the (craft items)

- 1. Christmas decorated coffee mugs
- 2. Make an ornament (Photo) etc.
- 3. Christmas plate
- 4. Small decorated Christmas trees
- 5. Gingerbread houses
- 6. Decorate a Christmas Sleigh
- 7. Snow Globes
- 8. Make stockings (decorate)
- 9. Terra cotta pot (decorate)
- 10. Decorated candle
- 11. Hats, Gloves, Scarfs
- 12. Lotions
- 13. Christmas stuffed animal



See the next page for information about the lunch run!





LUNCH RUN

DECEMBER 1, 2013

TAHOE JOE'S @ THE Vacaville PREMIUM OUTLETS

SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!



Please bring an unwrapped gift for a senior: scarves, gloves, hats, craft items, lotions.

I will take to the Bradford House Senior Center and Brentwood Senior Center

MEET: 9:30 AM @ SAFEWAY SHOPPING CENTER BY THE CHASE BANK

Lunch choice	Description	price	choice
Joe's steak sandwich	Hand carved steak, mushrooms, onions, bacon, jack cheese, thousand island dressing, green chili between grilled parmesan bread	14.00	
Crystal Bay Chicken Sandwich	Wood grilled chicken, onions, mushrooms , avocado, bacon, jack cheese Chili / parmesan bread	13.00	
Wood grilled Chicken salad	Chicken on field greens, w/champagne vinaigrette, raisins, sweet walnuts, toma- toes and gorgonzola cheese	13.00	
Blackwood Canyon Pasta	Penne noodles tossed in cream parmesan sauce w/mushrooms, artichoke hearts, tomatoes, fresh basil w/hint of garlic w/chicken add \$3.00	13.00	

NAME:

TOTAL

MAIL CHECKS (made out to DBCC) TO: BERNIE REALPH, 2145 PRESTWICK DR.

Looks cool, goes fast. Those you'd expect from a Chevrolet Corvette.

But more endearing for people using the redesigned 2014 Corvette day-in and day-out is its continued ability to be drivable as your only car (if a two-seater will do, and you don't get much snow), as well as a modest appetite for fuel, considering its performance potential.

C-7 Corvette from USA Today

Not all high-performance cars are as agreeable. Corvette's decent manners have been a strong selling point for years — a beast tame enough for a pet. It's nice to see that Chevy didn't ruin that in the full-scale makeover that went on sale late last month.

The 6.2-liter V-8 grumbles and throbs when you hit the ignition. And the wide turning circle reminds you that the car's not as small — in any way you care to name — as its compact dimensions suggest.

You'll not mistake it for a family sedan, but it doesn't demand a lot from the driver, while rewarding handsomely. Sight, sound, feel, control — all the sensations are thrilling, even at low speed.

The latest Corvette is only the seventh generation — the C7 — since the first one in 1953. And in the car's 61-year life only five people have held what might be the best job in the auto industry: Corvette Chief Engineer.

Tadge Juechter has the job now, and loves it. He drew the short straw, though, and wound up riding with Test Drive through rural Northern Virginia (aka "horse country") during our skirmish with the new, seven-speed manual transmission. Hitting three gears in a row that were the ones we meant to hit was worth a celebration. Juechter was gracious, didn't even grimace.

Test Drive spends plenty of time with manual transmissions, however, and usually does well. So we wonder if the Corvette's wide shift pattern, to include seven speeds and reverse, might bedevil others, too, at least initially. The dashboard shows which gear you've chosen — a feature normally reserved for the manual-shift mode of automatic transmissions — in a bit of acknowledgment that drivers could use some guidance.

Driving a wild-looking Corvette, and especially the arrest-me-red one in which most driving time was spent, slows you down. Move with the flow; don't lay into the gas. It's impossible for police not to notice such a car. So, issue everybody red Corvettes as an anti-speeding maneuver?

But there were a number of moments when the go pedal found the floor. Mercy. At about 3,000 rpm the exhaust note changes explosively from friendly to feral, and the car's 455 horsepower accelerates it so quickly, that the effect is close to scary the first few times.

Good thing the suspension's up to the task of keeping the rocketing car where the driver wishes. Eventually the laws of physics limit things, and any car can go sailing off into the woods or weeds. But short of that, the C7 — with or without Z51 performance package accoutrements — is rock steady.

Edmunds.com notes that early buyers are choosing the upgraded Z51 model two-to-one over non-Z51 equipped cars. Average transaction prices are running about \$700 more than the window-sticker price, the site says.

All C7 coupes have a removable top panel. It is light enough for one person to lift, but too big to handle gracefully. We foresee scratches in the paint and rips in the rubber roof seals as Corvette drivers try to lift off the top and replace it by themselves. When off, the panel stores nicely under the hatch, leaving surprising room beneath the panel for bags.

A folding-top convertible is coming for those who like open cars but don't want to grapple with the top panel.







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