

Founded in 1958 www.cccorvette.org September 2024

THE CONNECTION

The Monthly Newsletter of the **Capital City Corvette Club Volume LIV • Number 9**



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September 2024

104 Members 2 Honorary Members 27 FCOA





Our Sponsor www.Shaheenlansing.com



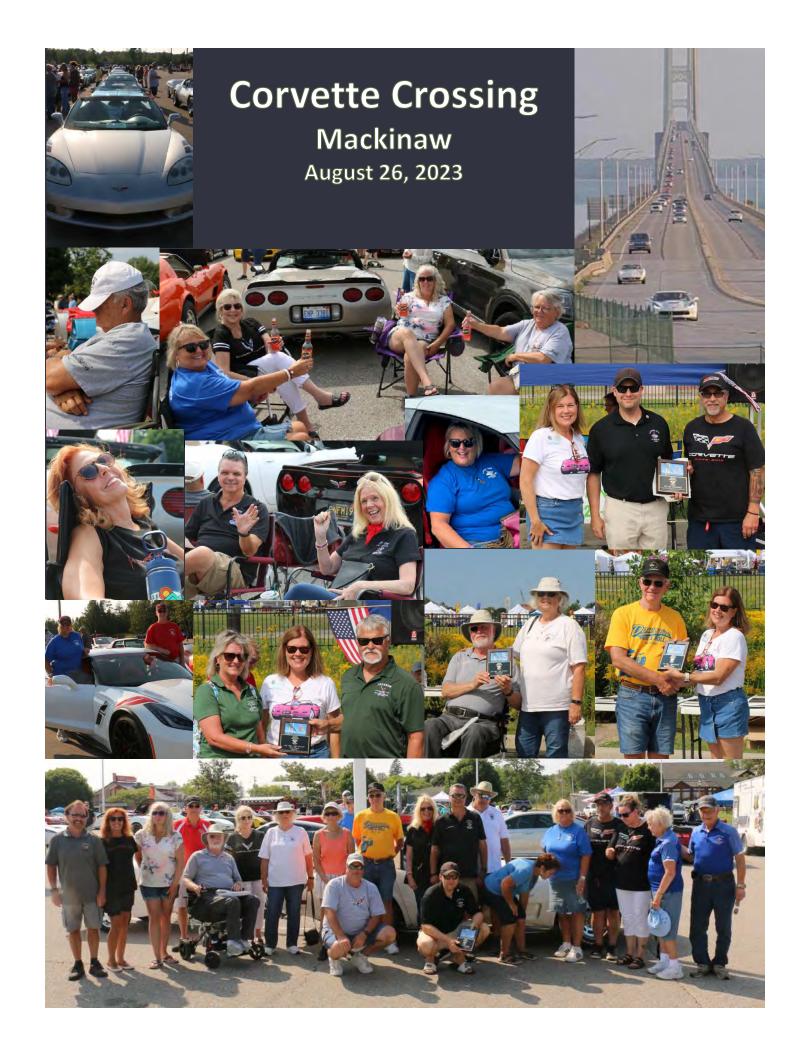


Corvette Crossroads
Tunnel of Trees M119
August 23, 2023









ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER & BEYOND

 General Membership Meeting 7:00 PM @ Delhi Cafe 	Sept 4
Shaheen Car Show	Sept 8
Board Meeting	Sept 18
JCC Sponsor's Choice Corvette Show	Sept 21
Darrell's Car Show / Miller's Ice Cream	Sept 22
Upcoming Events	
Fall Color Tour	Oct 12
Let's Meet for Breakfast	Oct 26
Bingo at Delta River Senior Village	Nov 9
Toys for Tots	Dec 7
Holiday Luncheon	Dec 14

Check out the Events Page on the CCCC Website for more information on upcoming NCCC, Local, Regional, and National Events.

Event Flyers (cccorvette.org)

6th Annual Shaheen Chevrolet

Car Show

In Partnership with the Capital City Corvette Club

Benefiting Ele's Place "A healing center for grieving children & teens"



Sunday, September 8th

- Event: 10 am 2 pm. Registration: 9 am 12 pm
- \$20 Fee For Vehicles on Display. Free to Spectators
- All Vehicles Welcome & Open To The Public
- Judging & Trophies
- Door Prizes: Flat Screen TV, Quick Lube Vouchers, Gas & Restaurant Gift Cards, Shaheen Camp Chairs & More!
- Food Trucks: Cottage Inn Pizza, Udderly Delicious Ice Cream and J&J's Delicous Dogs and More!
- WITL Live DJ & League of Enchantment Super Heroes
- Playmakers 'Autumn Classic' race sign up location with discount
- Insurance waiver must be signed by all participants. Non-NCCC members are not covered by NCCC insurance. MI-003-N02
- Questions? Email: carshow@cccorvette.org







ShaheenChevrolet.com











For event information, please visit: www.shaheenchevrolet.com/carshow

Or Scan the QR Code!











JACKSON CORVETTE CLUB

3 PEOPLE'S CHOICE CORVETTE SHOWS TROPHIES ARE SPONSOR'S CHOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

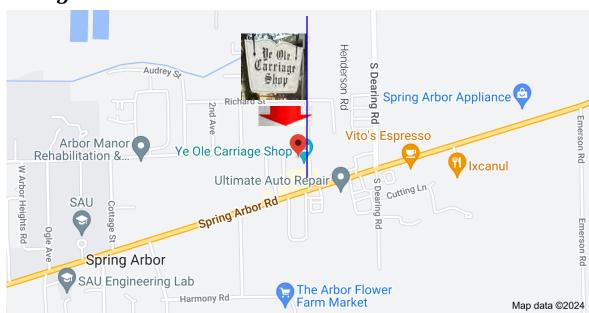
Sanction #'s: MI-046-008, 009, 010

Lloyd Ganton's Auto Collection - YE OLE CARRIAGE SHOP MUSEUM

3538 Henderson Rd. Spring Arbor, MI

Entry Fee: \$30 per car for all 3 shows (Includes free admission to museum)

Registration: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Awards at 2:00 PM**



50/50 raffle (Proceeds to a local veteran's organization)
Food Truck will be on location

No Electric vehicles in car show allowed due to fire concerns.

Non-NCCC entrants and workers are not covered by NCCC insurance.

NCCC waiver must be signed by all participants.

Governor: Steve Massie 517-740-0445

Overall Chairpersons: Steve Massie: 517-740-0445 Carol Massie: 517-414-2482



CHARITY CRUISE IN

Featuring the Sea Cruisers Band

Sunday, September 22, 2024

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Darrell's

4520 W Columbia Rd Mason, MI www.darrellsmason.com

Licensed 50/50 Raffle, Hots & Brats Dinner 11:30-1:00 Benefits Mason Chamber of Commerce Hometown Champion Scholarship Fund. A charity in memory of Shirley Grieve. Let's all "cruise-in" to Darrell's Charity Car Show, and then "cruise-out" to Miller's for ice cream after the show.



635 State Street, Eaton Rapids, MI

Contact Angela with any questions. 4c.membership@cccorvette.org



~ Away Game ~ Michigan State vs. Michigan

Let's meet for breakfast!

When: Saturday, October 26 @ 9:30 a.m.

Where: Spud's Family Restaurant

611 S. Waverly Rd., Lansing

(just north of 496)

If you plan to attend, sign up at a meeting or email Gloria by noon, on Thursday, October 24:

4c.webmaster@cccorvette.org.



Saturday, November 9, 2024 2:00 – 4:00 pm (setup at 1:00 pm)



Delta River Senior Village

a Volunteers of America Community

6090 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing MI 48917

Keep gathering your fabulous Bingo prizes.

Handmade items are always a plus, but if you're not 'crafty',
basic household products or other fun things are always welcome.

Please bring your favorite snack and/or dessert to share!

We will enjoy dinner afterwards at Tony M's 3420 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing MI 48917

Hosted by Sandy Bechtel. Contact Sandy with any questions: 517 • 243 • 7207 or sjbechtel@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Thomas Taylor September 1



Tom Faupel
September 17



Skip Herold, Jr September 3



Christine Wieczorek September 22



Melissa Hass September 7



Angela Hyde September 26



Kim Keith September 9



President's Page



Members,

Can you believe we have already been to Mackinaw? Which, I would like to say congratulations to those who went as we once again received the Club Award for most cars registered.

This month, I am going to stick to Club Awards. Did you know that Capital City is in position to claim the 2024 Michigan Region Club of the Year award? We are just over half way through the season and we are setting in first place. The importance of winning this award goes beyond recognition, we also get to bid dates in first position. We bid dates in a reverse NFL draft style based on the previous year's finish. The better you finish, the earlier you pick.

How can you help us win this award and help ensure we get the dates we want? You can attend any of the upcoming Region Competitions. The Calendar of Events on our website contains links to the flyers for each event. Most of the upcoming evets are Rallyes or Funkhanas, a few car shows, and only a couple autocrosses. Many of our experienced members will be happy to help you with your first competitions if you ask.

I usually write about how fun the events are and all the people you will meet. I want to assure you that is still true. This year, we have an opportunity we have not had in a while. What great bragging rights being Club of the year could bring!

Remember to wave,

Kyle Felts
President
Capital City
Corvette Club



Capital City Corvette Club



Participation Points as of August 16, 2024

		ı u		15 01	riagust 10, 2021		
0	Beverly Adado	7	Jeanne Harris	0	Diane Munshaw	6	Michael Sprague
0	Robert Adado	17	Ward Harris	0	Tom Munshaw	64	James Sutherland
16	Pat Bailey	20	Bill Hass	20	Steve Musselman	0	Ralph Swan
30	Roy Bailey	25	Melissa Hass	20	Barb Musselman	0	Susan Swan
10	Kelly Barnes	9	Bob Hedlund	0	George Nelson	0	Connie Taylor
10	Mark Barnes	9	Elizabeth Hedlund	0	Laurie Nelson	0	Thomas Taylor
0	Dana Beaman	0	Skip Herold, Jr.	0	Stanley Olson	0	Stephen Toth
16	Sandy Bechtel	0	Skip Herold, III	0	Zola Olson	18	Harold Twining
0	Colleen Bratschi	9	Sue Hoover *	23	Erick Pardo	18	Katherine Twining
0	Rich Bratschi	73	Angela Hyde	2	Sondi Plummer	7	Luis Valle
1	Connie Britz	5	Craig lansiti	20	Suzanne Politza	10	Ann Voss
2	Mike Britz	2	Daniel Kane	47	Carl Polomski *	11	David Voss
7	Daniel Burk	50	Kim Keith	47	Carolyn Polomski *	0	Peter Walker
1	Laura Burk	48	Sue Keith	9	Gary Pratt	0	Chris Waltz
29	Geofrey Cradit	51	Michael Lewis	36	Carol Putmon	0	Mike Waltz
19	Joyce Cradit	10	Janet Litrenta	45	Randy Putmon	7	Robert Watson
1	Jim Curtis	2	Jean Luttig	65	Gloria Reiffer	15	Mary Wells
1	Art Doty *	35	Bob Maynard	65	Simon Reiffer	42	Timothy Wells
1	Nancy Doty *	18	Shalimar Maynard	21	Robert Ribar	8	Christine Wieczorek
26	George Duncan *	27	Brian McKevett	0	Heather Saxton	8	Thomas Wieczorek
26	Kathy Duncan *	91	Kevin Mead	0	Mike Saxton	2	Stella Wood
47	Michelle Faupel	13	Patricia Mead	14	Kyle Schittenhelm		
57	Tom Faupel	0	Linda Michael	4	Shelby Schittenhelm		
108	Kyle Felts	34	Chuck Miller	7	Kim Schramm		
21	Melissa Felts	19	Jeffrey Mitzel	0	James Spalding		
10	Cindy Gozalka	20	Casey Mulvany	2	Robert Spehar	*	NCCC affiliation with
19	Norman Gozalka	11	Kim Mulvany	0	Janet Sprague		another Region club

2024 Top Ten

108	Kyle Felts	65	Gloria Reiffer	57	Tom Faupel	48	Sue Keith
91	Kevin Mead	65	Simon Reiffer	51	Michael Lewis		
73	Angela Hyde	64	James Sutherland	50	Kim Keith		



2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ~ CAPITAL CITY CORVETTE CLUB

Renewal dues are payable prior to the end of the General Membership meeting which takes place on the first Wednesday in November. NCCC charges a \$10 late fee for those who do not renew by that time. Checks should be made payable to Capital City Corvette Club.

Dues	New Member
\$35.00	NCCC Primary Member Dues (includes \$10.00 NCCC initial application fee)
\$30.00	CCCC Primary Member Dues
\$10.00	NCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$10.00	CCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$65.00 / \$85.00	Total due if applying as a new Primary Member or Primary Member with Spouse/Companion

Dues	Renewal Member
\$25.00	NCCC Primary Member Dues
\$30.00	CCCC Primary Member Dues
\$10.00	NCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$10.00	CCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$55.00 / \$75.00	Total due if renewing by the first Wednesday of November

NOTE: Add a \$10.00 late fee, imposed by NCCC, if you haven't renewed your membership by the end of the November General Membership meeting.

Dues	Social Member - must have NCCC membership with an affiliated club
\$30.00	CCCC Primary Member Dues
\$10.00	CCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$30.00 / \$40.00	Total due

Dues	NCCC Lifetime Member
\$30.00	CCCC Primary Member
\$10.00	NCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$10.00	CCCC Spouse/Companion Dues (if applicable)
\$30.00 / \$50.00	Total due

NOTE: If you believe you will be involved for ten or more years, consider becoming a NCCC Lifetime Member. Lifetime dues are a one-time fee of \$300.00 if a current NCCC member or a one-time fee of \$335.00 for those new to NCCC. NCCC Lifetime Members are still responsible for annual club dues, as listed above.

Lifetime Members are all Primary Members. There is no Spouse/Companion status. NCCC Lifetime Membership is transferrable to an affiliated club if you move.

PRESIDENT

Kyle **Felts**



GOVERNOR/VP

Simon Reiffer



SECRETARY

Melissa Hass



TREASURER

James Sutherland



SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Roy Bailey



COMPETITION DIRECTOR

Kevin Mead



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Angela Hyde



POINTS DIRECTOR

Kim Keith



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tom Faupel



PR DIRECTOR

Chuck Miller



CHAPLAIN

Ward Harris



HEARTS & FLOWERS

Ann Voss



HISTORIAN

Sue Keith



NCM AMBASSADOR

Casey Mulvany



PHOTOGRAPHER

Tom Faupel



QUARTERMASTER

Randy Putmon



SARGEANT AT ARMS

Geofrey Cradit



WEBMASTER

Gloria Reiffer



PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Maynard



FACEBOOK MODERATOR

Dave Voss



Membership Meeting Minutes

CAPITAL CITY CORVETTE CLUB GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING August 7, 2024 - Delhi Café & Zoom

7:00 Call to Order: Kyle Felts, President

- The only mail received was our bank statement and some applications for Birch Run.
- We receive a magazine from NCM with our membership. If anyone wants to see/read this, please see Casey.
- Thank you to Roy for putting together the Corvette Obsession for a 6-year old's birthday. It was a lot of fun
- Thanks to Kevin for heading up the Best of the Bowties. Kalamazoo Club took home the club prize.

Secretary: Melissa Hass

• Approval for July minutes: Motion by Kevin Mead and seconded by Carolyn Polomski and approved by the majority of the members in attendance.

Treasurer: James Sutherland

- The books are balanced and the bills are paid.
- Stella's surgery has been moved to later in August.

V/P Governor: Simon Reiffer

- Not too much to report this month. I hope everyone got Deb Murphy's email. There are three positions open for elections, if anyone is interested, please see Deb's newsletter this month.
- The National Governor's meeting is in St. Louis in September. If anyone is interested in going, see Simon.
- NCCC is looking for ways to cut costs, if you have any ideas, please forward them to me. You can go on the Members Only site and see a copy of their Budget.
- Thursday, August 15, is the car show at the Willows. This year they are having a Texas theme. They are
 asking for donations to be made for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. We will be meeting at the Meijer's
 parking lot on Lake Lansing Road at 5:00 and then caravan over together.

Points Director: Kim Keith

- Points are up to date as of 8/3. Thanks to all of you that have sent me your point information.
- There are no points for most cruise-ins. I check the flyers to see if you can receive points. If you have to register for the show, you will receive points.

Competition Director: Kevin Mead

• We are all set for Birch Run. Track people said that the track will be open at 7:00 am both days. Their Bar & Grill will be catering lunch on both days. We have a timing training tomorrow night at my house at 6:00 pm. Randy picked up the cones today for the event. We have at least 3 people coming from out of state to participate this year.

Editor: Tom Faupel

- The newsletter came out on 8/1, if you didn't get it, please let me know.
- If anyone would like to write an article for the newsletter please do and forward it to me. I'm always looking for articles.

Membership Meeting Minutes

Membership Director: Angela Hyde

- Absent, report emailed.
- We have 103 members, 2 honorary members, 27 FCOA and 4 lifetime members.
- Nominations for the 2025 Board will be next month.
- Membership renewals will start in September.

Social Director: Roy Bailey

- We had a good ride for the 6-year old's birthday party. We had either 12 or 13 cars and then we enjoyed a nice lunch at City Limits after.
- Birthday treats were handed out.

Public Relations Director: Chuck Miller

Nothing new to report.

Appointed Officer Report:

Past President: Bob Maynard

Nothing new to report.

Photographer: Tom Faupel

• The new Club picture has been hung in the entrance of the Delhi Café.

Webmaster: Gloria Reiffer

Nothing new to report.

Facebook Moderator: Dave Voss

- We are promoting our Birch Run Event and the Shaheen Car Show on our FB page.
- The Crossroads sign-up sheet is on the table. I have sent out emails to people who have already signed up. We will be meeting at Clark Corners on 8/22, departing at 10:00. We are going back to Shaker's in Houghton Lake for lunch. We will be having a cookout Thursday night at Beachcomber, please get in contact with Angela about food.
- Friday we will be leaving Beachcomber at 10:30 and driving west to the Tunnel of the Trees, stopping at Pierson's Grill & Spirits in Harbor Springs for lunch. As of now, Friday night is open.
- Crossroads Car Show is Saturday. After the show we will meet and line up for the parade and the
 crossing of the Mackinaw Bridge. Dinner at Audie's Restaurant after the parade.

Zoom Facilitator: Kyle Felts

Zoom is working fine.

Quartermaster: Randy Putmon

• The trailer was taken in to be serviced. It is 10 years old and this is the first time. The total came to \$223. The trailer is now ready for Birch Run.

Sergeant at Arms: Geofrey Cradit

- Nothing new to report.
- I did bring in some travel books for the Wisconsin Dells if anyone is interested.

Membership Meeting Minutes

NCM Ambassador: Casey Mulvany

The National Corvette Caravan is coming up.

• There is still no CEO for the Museum.

Historian: Sue Keith

Nothing new to report.

Hearts and Flowers: Ann Voss

Absent.

Chaplain: Ward Harris

Absent.

New Business:

- We need a club to host the Regional Banquet. The last time our Club hosted was in 2018 and we held it at Shaheen. This Banquet can just be dinner and awards given out or it can be lavish. Its whatever the Club wants to put into it. You could add a Funkhanas or something to the banquet. Maybe in the future, Clubs should just be assigned since no one really wants to host. That way, you would only have to host once every 15 years.
- Toys for Tots at Lingenfelter's in Brighton will be on 12/7. We are trying to get clubs from across the State to join in. Lakeshore Club has something similar and I am trying to get them to join in also.
- Christmas Party will be 12/14.

Other Business:

- Shaheen Car Show is 9/8. We need people to show up at 7:00 am for set up. We will have a short volunteer meeting at that time. The tent will already be set up. The parking lot will be closed until we are all set up. Ken Lingenfelter will be there. Kyle and Jennifer will coordinate the insurance.
- When the show is over all participants need to leave ASAP as the Shaheen employees need to secure the property.
- In observing other car shows of this kind, it has been decided that cars from the CCCC will not be judged.
- FCOA Request The national Director is working on a letter of explanation/suggestions. They are trying to get some money into their programs so they can encourage more FCOA participation. The program is currently running in the negative.
- Bingo at the Delta Senior Village has tentatively been set for 11/9. We need bags, for the residents to put their gifts in. If anyone has any idea of where we might be able to get some donated to us, please see Sandy Bechtel.

Adjournment at 8:10. Motion to adjourn by Simon Reiffer and seconded by Kim Keith and approved by the majority of members present.

Capital City Corvette Club Potential Nominees for the Office of President For nominations held in 2024 for the 2025 Board

According to the Capital City Corvette Club By-Laws (2008), Article IV, Section B, 1a, the President must have held a prior elected office in the Club.

The following current members have held an elected office in the Club:

Roy Bailey Sandy Bechtel Rich Bratschi Colleen Bratschi Mike Britz **Connie Britz** Dan Burk Michelle Faupel **Tom Faupel Kyle Felts Melissa Felts** Melissa Hass Angela Hyde Craig lansiti Kim Keith **Janet Litrenta**

Shalimar Maynard Bob Maynard Kevin Mead Chuck Miller Suzanne Politza **Carol Putmon** Simon Reiffer Gloria Reiffer Mike Sprague James Sutherland **Katherine Twining Dave Voss Mary Wells Tim Wells Chris Wieczorek Tom Wieczorek**



Board Meeting Minutes

CAPITAL CITY CORVETTE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 21, 2024 - Delhi Café & ZOOM

6:30 Call to Order: Kyle Felts, President

- The Club received a Silver Star Donor certificate from the VFW National Home for Children.
- The Club received a beautiful glass award from the National Corvette Museum for purchasing a lifetime membership.

Board Reports:

Secretary: Melissa Hass

Minutes previously approved.

Treasurer: James Sutherland

- All bills are paid and the books are up to date.
- We made \$970.52 at our Birch Run event.
- Stella's surgery is now scheduled for 9/18.

V/P Governor: Simon Reiffer

- The Governor's Meeting is in St. Louis in two weeks.
- We had a great time at Birch Run.

Points Director: Kim Keith

- Points are up to date as of 8/16.
- If anyone attended the IHCC or CCBC events last weekend, please forward your information to me.

Competition Director: Kevin Mead

- We didn't have as many cars at Birch Run this year and we didn't have any steel body cars.
 We had 15 cars on Saturday and 18 on Sunday. Next year we will try to advertise more for steel cars, and maybe check into the cost of advertising with Hagertys'.
- We did spend more for food but everyone enjoyed being able to sit in a restaurant to eat instead of having pizza at the track. The food was excellent.
- We are in a good position to take first place in the Region. We need some more people to get out and do some competition.

Editor: Tom Faupel

I'll be working on the newsletter when we get back from Crossroads.

Social Director: Roy Bailey

The Christmas party is in the planning stages and Angela is helping me.

Board Meeting Minutes

Membership Director: Angela Hyde

- We currently have 104 members, 2 honorary, 27 FCOA and 4 lifetime members.
- I will start collecting for dues September 1.
- Nomination of officers will take place at the September Membership Meeting.

Public Relations Director: Chuck Miller

• Absent, no report.

Appointed Officer Report:

Past President: Bob Maynard

Nothing new to report.

Photographer: Tom Faupel

We have a big weekend coming up, hopefully a lot of opportunity for pictures.

Webmaster: Gloria Reiffer

We did get a new Banner advertisement.

Facebook Moderator: Dave Voss

Absent, no report.

Zoom Facilitator: Kyle Felts

Zoom is working well but we will need to replace the camera soon.

Quartermaster: Randy Putman

• Absent – Report sent; the cones have been returned.

Sergeant at Arms: Geofrey Cradit

Absent, no report.

NCM Ambassador: Casey Mulvany

Absent, no report.

Historian: Sue Keith

• I have sent a list to be published in the September and October newsletters on members who are eligible to be nominated for President.

Hearts & Flowers: Ann Voss

Absent, no report.

Chaplain: Ward Harris

Absent, no report.

Board Meeting Minutes

New Business:

- Simon received information on the FCOA giving levels. Legacy Club is \$25; Vette's Club is \$50; Save the Wave Club is \$100; Stingray Club is \$150; Checkered Flag Club is \$200 and Champions Club is \$250. We will bring this up at the membership meeting but Simon recommends we become members of the Champions Club.
- For the Shaheen show we need people to show up and work. If you can, please be there at 7:00 am for a quick meeting with the Shaheen staff. If you cannot make it at 7:00, please come whenever you can and help out. We always need volunteers.
- We need a couple of more judges for the Shaheen show.
- Roy updated us on Pat, she is now home after a week's stay at Sparrow and is doing well.

7:05 Motion for adjournment made by Tom, seconded by Angela and approved by members in attendance.



verything you may (or may not) want to know about Gasoline and Octane Rating

When teaching about hydrocarbons in chemistry classes, I sometimes got questions about Octane. I also heard of people using higher octane in their car than recommended by the manufacturer. That is not always good, and can cause other problems in the long run. Some of the following information may help you understand the octane levels in the gasoline used in our Corvettes and other vehicles. This information was compiled from various sources, including class notes and from my personal experience in the lab.



Almost all of our vehicles use four stroke engines. One of those "strokes" of the piston is called a compression stroke, where the engine compresses a cylinder full of air and gasoline into a much smaller volume before igniting it with a spark. The amount of compression is called the "compression ratio" of the engine, and is typically around 8-to-1 (more in a high-performance engine).

The Octane Rating of gasoline (a hydrocarbon) tells you how much the fuel can be compressed before it spontaneously ignites. When gasoline ignites by compression rather than because of spark from the spark plug, it causes knocking in the engine. Knocking can damage the engine since it puts undue stress on the piston as it is still going up into the cylinder. Lower octane gasoline like 87-octane, can handle the least amount of compression before igniting. Diesel engines use only compression to ignite a different formulation of hydrocarbon fuel. That's a different story.

The compression ratio of your engine determines the octane rating of the gas you must use in the car. One way to increase horsepower of an engine of a given displacement is to increase its compression ratio. So a "high-performance engine" has a higher compression ratio and requires higher octane fuel. The advantage of a high compression ratio is that it gives your engine a higher horsepower rating for a given engine weight. It costs more to run, though.

A bit of history. The name "octane" comes from the following fact: When you take crude oil and "crack" it in a refinery, you end up getting hydrocarbon chains of different lengths. These different chain lengths can then be separated from each other and blended to form different fuels. For example, you may have heard of methane, propane and butane. All three of them are hydrocarbons. Methane has just a single carbon atom. Propane has three carbon atoms chained together. Butane has four. Pentane has five, hexane has six, heptane has seven, and Octane has eight carbons chained together.

It turns out that heptane handles compression very poorly. Compress it just a little and it ignites spontaneously. Octane handles compression very well - - you can compress it a lot and nothing happens. Eighty-Seven-Octane gasoline is gasoline that contains 87 percent octane and 13

percent heptane (or some other combination of fuels that has the same performance of the 87/13 combination octane/heptane). It spontaneously ignites at a given compression level, and can only be used in engines that do not exceed that compression ratio.

During World War One, it was discovered that you can add a chemical called tetraethyl lead (TEL) to gasoline and significantly improve its octane rating above the octane/heptane combination. Cheaper grades of gasoline could be made usable by adding TEL. This led to the widespread use of "ethyl" or "leaded" gasoline. Unfortunately, the side effects of adding lead to gasoline are: Lead clogs a catalytic converter and renders it inoperable within minutes; and worse, the Earth became covered in a thin layer of toxic lead.

When lead was banned, gasoline became more expensive because refineries could not boost the octane ratings of cheaper grades any more. Only airplanes are still allowed to use leaded gasoline, known as AvGas, and octane ratings of 100 or more are commonly used in super-high-performance piston airplane engines. In the case of AvGas, 100 is the gasoline's performance rating, not the percentage of actual octane in the gas. The addition of TEL boosts the compression level of the gasoline - - it doesn't add more octane. Engineers are currently working on the development of airplane piston engines that can use unleaded gasoline.

Use of higher octane gasoline in lower compression engines does not improve performance, and can actually cause carbon buildup and other problems over the long run. The term "Premium" has long been used to describe higher octane gasoline, thereby causing some people to think it is better for their car, no matter what the compression ration or manufacturer recommendations.

This is really a waste of money. Some manufacturers note octane levels that are "recommended" or "required". If your manual says "required", it's best to use the octane specified. If it says "recommended", you can try a lower octane rating in cooler, easier driving conditions and monitor performance and mileage. The computers in modern cars can adjust the spark and valve settings a bit to compensate for variations in octane. If you notice performance degradation or spark "knock" when trying lower octane gasoline, move back to the next higher octane rating.

Reprint from The Connection (February 2011) Submitted by Craig Iansiti





Brandon Goad, Owner proreflections19@gmail.com

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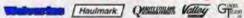


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