

Spoiler

MARCH/APRIL 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

*Welcome New Members
and Upcoming Events*

2

Test & Tune Autocross

3

Sunday Brunches

4

Car Show Corner

5

Corvette Driving School

6 – 7

Clive The Corvette Visit

8 – 10

Cocoa Village Cruise-in

11

2025 NCCC Convention

12

CKCC Officers & Committee Chairs

13

PREZ SEZ

Happy Spring everyone. It seems as if 2025 is flying by as fast as 2024. Member "snowbirds" are starting to head back



President Janice Greene

north, car shows are in high gear, locals are starting to look for cooler places to visit and many have started thinking of "indoor activities" to avoid the heat, humidity and love bugs.

Anthony Chandler volunteered to be Competition Director and join our Board of Directors. He has huge shoes to fill replacing Bill Kassebaum, who decided to investigate other adventures. Welcome, Anthony! We know you will do a fantastic job.

Did you know our Corvette ladies have a monthly breakfast? The third Wednesday of each month the ladies get together for breakfast. Each month we travel to a different restaurant where we laugh and talk and, of course, have a delicious breakfast. In March we met at *Marmalade* in Rockledge. April found us in Melbourne at *Eggs Up Grill*. If you'd like to join us, we would love to have you! Just ask one of the ladies where we are meeting next.

As always, we welcome new members and hope you like who we are and enjoy the things we do. If you have any suggestions to make us better, we're always anxious to hear them!

If you're heading north for the summer, safe travels and we will see you in the fall. If you're in Florida full time, enjoy your summer travels. Be safe and hurry back home.

Hope to see all of you at our upcoming CKCC events.

Janice

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CORVETTE CLUBS

Welcome, New Members!

James Osborne joined in late 2024

Dennis Gower

Skyla Marden, youth member

Seized Corvette Joins Florida Highway Patrol Fleet

By Andrew Willis of firstcoastnews.com

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) on Tuesday April 15, 2025 unveiled a new sports car now patrolling Florida highways.

FHP posted pictures of a 2023 Chevrolet Corvette C8 Stingray on its Facebook page Tuesday morning. The agency said the vehicle will be "utilized to support the Florida Highway Patrol's mission of keeping our roadways and highways safe." It will also be used at various educational outreach events, FHP added.

According to Chevrolet, the MSRP of the sports car is \$65,895, but FHP said it did not

purchase the vehicle with state funds. Instead, the car was seized by FHP and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

With the appropriate packages, Chevrolet says the C8 Stingray can go 0-60 mph in 2.9 seconds and reach speeds up to 194 mph.



Upcoming Events*

May 4: CKCC Sunday Brunch, 10 a.m., Gators Portside, Port Canaveral

May 13: CKCC General Membership Social/Meeting, 5:30/7 p.m., M.I. Moose

May 17: CKCC Camp Holly Cruise-in, 6901 West U.S. 192, Melbourne (3 miles west of I-95). Indoor, outdoor dining on the river, tiki bar, live entertainment, airboat rides, unique gift shop. Arrive at 11:30 a.m.

June 10: CKCC General Membership Social/Meeting, 5:30/7 p.m., M.I. Moose

June 14: Flag Day, Titusville Air Museum Car Show 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check your email and our Facebook Group posts for details.

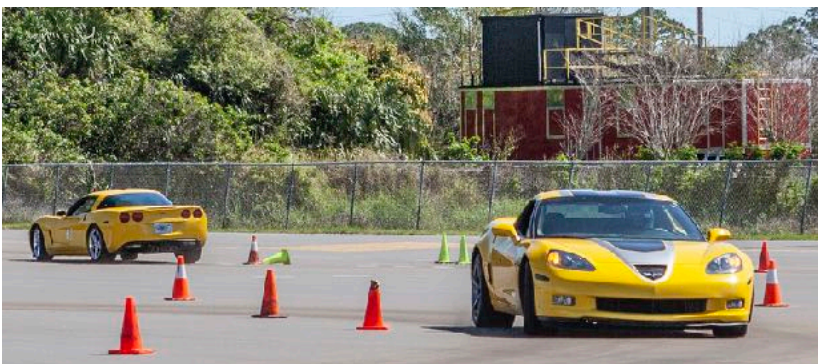
***Events are subject to change. Please confirm before attending.**

Test & Tune Autocross Held at New Facility

On March 1 & 2, the CKCC race team tested out a new location for autocross races with a *Test & Tune* weekend held at the Clearlake Career Advancement Center in Cocoa. Our past autocross races were held at the American Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne for several years until it became too costly. This location has a dedicated truck driving

training course (skid pad) that is safer and works perfectly for our autocross races.

Through the concerted efforts of member Veronica "Roni" Duys and CKCC contributing \$1621 to the Brevard Schools Foundation for two scholarships in their CDL and/or ASE programs, our Club was allowed to use the track on non school days.



Sunday Brunch at Gator's Continues to Be One of The Most Popular Club Events

Our CKCC brunch, held at *Gator's Portside* in Port Canaveral the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m., continues to be one of the most popular club events. The April brunch was attended by 44 members driving

at least 15 Vettes who not only enjoyed free mimosas with their breakfasts but also great conversations with fellow members who share a common love of the Corvette, the only true American sports car.



CAR SHOW CORNER

The following February show story was received after the January/February *Spoiler* was distributed.

Red, White & Wheels Car Show

By Barbara Lenhard

Barbara Hurn, Peter Lenhard and I entered the 9th Annual Red, White and Wheels car show on February 22 at the Melbourne campus of Eastern Florida State College that hosted the show to benefit American veterans. There were 105 various cars and trucks on display at this People's Choice judged show. It was nice to see young people, college students, run the car show.

Despite the nice showing and many compliments about our two Club cars, it was not our day to win trophies. However, we did enjoy a most interesting lunch. As part of the entrance fee, a BBQ lunch was included. Corporate offices, restaurant owners, food truck entrepreneurs and individuals participated in a BBQ contest. A long row of small tents was set up near the King Center. Each participant/tent served a sample of their prized smoked meat. I don't remember seeing so many smokers in one

location. After sampling at least 12 different stations, it was quite difficult to choose the best BBQ. We had our resident BBQ expert, Barbara, as she is originally from one of America's BBQ capitals, Kansas City. Personally, I think it was easier to judge the cars.

Stuart Corvette Club Show

By Barbara Hurn

On March 29th Stuart Corvette Club held its 26th annual car show. There were 145 Corvettes at Keiser University in Port Saint Lucie. The County sheriff's K-9 unit had two of its dogs there to give demonstrations. Keiser University also had four booths set up inside for health screenings. Car show attendees who participated in the health screenings were given a raffle ticket for the basket drawings.

Our Club was represented at the show by four Corvettes. Jerry and Carol Walsh won Best in Show for C5. Faye Leschitz and Peter & Barbara Lenhard received Top 30 awards.

Unlike last year, the weather cooperated and it was a beautiful day.





Corvette Driving School Offer Well Worth it

By John Helm

Late last summer I started thinking about replacing our 17 year old C-6. It only had about 150K miles on it but I figured it was about time. With the help of CKCC long time member Bill Shearer I found a new C-8 that was exactly what I was looking for so I pulled the trigger, had it shipped to Florida and sold the C-6.

Subsidized by Chevrolet

I had heard people talking about the Ron Fellows Performance Driving School at Spring Mountain in Pahrump, Nevada that Chevrolet subsidizes but didn't think too much about it until I got the letter. It costs \$1000 for the 2-day school but it includes one night's stay in a luxury track condo and a few meals. Chevrolet subsidizes a substantial portion of the tuition. Even so for two days of instruction it was a little expensive when you

add your costs to get there but we decided to do it and signed up for the end of January.

Plans Altered by the Flu

Mary Jo and I planned for her to attend the classroom sessions and maybe get a ride with one of the instructors and then we'd stay in Vegas for a day or two and take in some shows. Well in mid-Jan Mary Jo got the flu, then I got it but I got over it pretty quickly, unfortunately she didn't. It was time to go and she was still congested so I went by myself. I got to Las Vegas by early afternoon, picked up a rental car and made my way out to the facility, checked into my condo and went over to the clubhouse for dinner.

Day 1: Classroom & 2 Track Sessions

After breakfast the next morning I got to the training room with 17 other students. We met the training cadre and got a quick introduction into what was going to happen

over the next two days. We were divided into three groups, each group got some classroom time, some time on the skid Pad, and some track time. The classroom covered the layout of the 1.5-mile track and the marker cones they used to indicate where to brake, where to start your turn, the apex of the turn, the rumble strip areas where you try to shorten the distance, the gravel area that you want to avoid and the walls that you definitely want to avoid. There were a couple different pads that were used. There was a session where ABS was used both dry and wet. There was one on a wet pad that we did figure 8s around cones trying to break the car loose. Once we practiced driving with the windshield covered so you had to spot your turn cones out the side window (easier than it sounds but a couple drivers never could figure it out).

Day 2: Three Track Sessions

On the second day they laid out an auto cross course on one of the pads. Track sessions were lead/follow with three students behind the instructor, a warm up lap then every three laps change position so each of us got three laps right behind the instructor. I guarantee you can't catch him but it was fun to try. We had two track sessions the first day and three the second and our group finished day two with our last track session and by then I was exhausted.

Most of what I did in the car is recorded on a flash drive, which is nice to have. It was getting dark by the time I got back to Las Vegas so I found my hotel and didn't even have dinner but went to bed. Got up early the next day and was back on Merritt Island in time for an early dinner. For me it was worth the money. They give you a C-8 just like the one you own and you can pound it for two days then give it back to them and walk away.



The car I drove

Clive the Corvette

An Unconventional Journey of Adventure and Passion

By Frank Storc, Vice President

When most Corvette enthusiasts envision their cherished possession, they typically picture weekend cruises or meticulously preserved garage beauties. However, David Smitheram's Corvette, affectionately known as *Clive the Corvette*, stands out as an exception. Clive, a C6 Corvette, has transformed into a globe-trotting adventure machine that defies every conventional notion of America's iconic sports car.

During a track day at *Laguna Seca*, David fell in love with the Corvette's raw appeal. A high-mileage 2007 Vette caught his eye – priced at an unbelievable \$9,995. Most would have balked at the 190,000 miles on the odometer but David saw potential. One month later he was driving his dream car from California to Texas, marking the beginning of an extraordinary partnership.



The Journey Begins

David's love affair with automotive excitement started early. Growing up in Norfolk, England, he was captivated by the rare American cars that would occasionally pass through. Their thunderous V8 engines were a stark contrast to the more subdued European automotive landscape. Smitheram's passion for motorsports ran deep but it wasn't until a 2016 California vacation that fate would intervene.

From Track to Transcontinental

This isn't a car that sits idle. David uses *Clive* as a daily driver, track weapon, and long-distance explorer. He's driven the Corvette through Europe, across the Sahara Desert (with a memorable sand-stuck incident), and even to the Arctic Circle. Each journey becomes a chapter in his growing collection of six children's books and two buyers guides he has written, chronicling *Clive's* adventures.

"The beauty of this car is its simplicity," David explains. "It's fast, fuel-efficient, and incredibly easy to work on." Unlike modern cars that seem designed to prevent owner maintenance, the C6 welcomes a hands-on approach. David does nearly all maintenance himself, a testament to the Corvette's robust engineering.

Reliability Beyond Expectations

With 237,000 miles and counting, *Clive* has proven to be remarkably dependable. David has raced the car, completed multiple long-distance journeys, and even won a racing championship – all without a trailer, driving to and from events on the same set of tires.

"I've only had one track incident – a cracked wheel," he says, "and that turned out to be from an after market brand."

Germany's famous Nürburgring track remains his favorite, where he ran an 8:44s lap. Impressive for a car with its miles, and a driver who was unfamiliar with the layout.

On April 21 and 22 our club had the privilege of hosting this Corvette enthusiast from across the pond. David had reached out to me several months ago with an unusual request. He claimed to have a C6 Corvette that he had driven all over the world, with approximately 230,000 miles on the odometer. He was aware that this distance was remarkably close to the distance to the moon, and he had heard about our Club through a member of NCCC, Steven Johnson. They put two and two together and thought it would be incredible if *Clive's* adventures somehow led him to the very place where humanity first left Earth and embarked on its journey to the moon.

Intrigued by David's story, I decided to investigate *Clive the Corvette* on YouTube. To my astonishment, it was indeed a real car! David expressed his desire to have his car photographed with CKCC cars and Club members to commemorate this significant mileage milestone. Why not? It was the same distance to the moon, which is 238,000 miles. That's when the plot took an unexpected turn. I had an idea. I reached out to our club

member and my friend, Joe Crosby, who we all know is the owner of Neil Armstrong's original 1967 Coupe. I figured the worst that could happen was Joe would say no. I pitched my idea to him and in typical Joe fashion, he enthusiastically agreed.



I suggested that we arrange for *Clive the Corvette*, which had traveled the world, to meet his astronaut hero's car at the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Center. This turned out to be more challenging than I had anticipated, considering that most of my contacts there had retired. However, through persistence and determination we were able to make *Clive's* dream come true. Not only did David, his family and his car *Clive* get to meet their hero's car but they also had the opportunity to witness a SpaceX night launch and a successful booster landing for the first time.

Future Adventures

Smitheram's next journey is already planned. Supported by GM, he'll embark on another cross-country adventure, potentially exploring routes through Detroit, Indianapolis, Niagara, and Virginia. A videographer will accompany him, documenting another chapter in *Clive's* remarkable story.

More Than Just a Car

What makes *Clive* special isn't just the miles traveled or the tracks conquered. It's a

testament to the Corvette's enduring spirit – a car that can be a daily driver, track weapon, long-distance tourer and beloved companion.

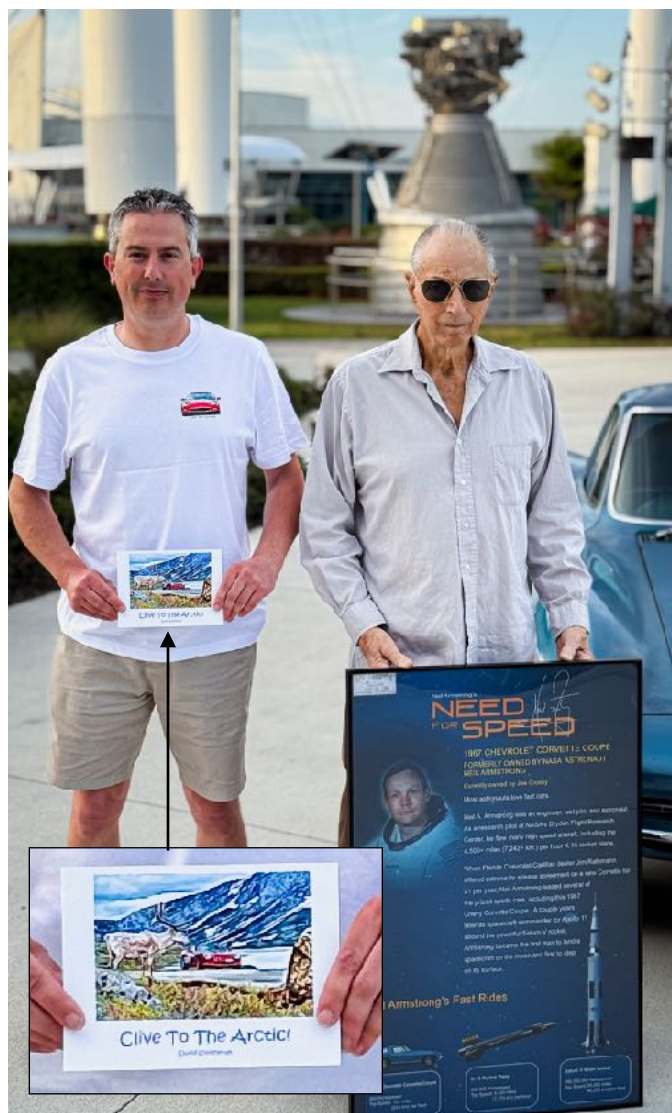
For Corvette enthusiasts, David's, *Clive the Corvette*, represents something extraordinary: a reminder that these cars are meant to be driven, not preserved. They're machines of adventure, waiting for owners bold enough to write their own stories.

You can follow *Clive's* adventures on the YouTube channel *Clive the Corvette* and look for David's children's books documenting their journeys.

Special thanks to David; Delaware North at Kennedy Space Center and Jenna Weiss Communications Coordinator for making this photo session possible; to photographer Carlos Carr for capturing the event; and to Joe Crosby for bringing out his Neil Armstrong car and sharing amazing stories.

CKCC Members Attend Meet & Greet

On the night before the photo session at KSC some CKCC members met David and his family at *Gator's Portside* restaurant in Port Canaveral to welcome them and hear more about *Clive's* past and future adventures.



Cocoa Village Cruise-In

By John Helm

On Saturday, April 26 Mary Jo and I arrived at Time Out Sports Bar Plus a little before 4 PM along with Roger and Pat Wolf, and Bob and Min Hill and joined the eight members already seated at one of the reserved tables. The Management had graciously reserved enough seats for the 28 members who had signed up to attend so as another couple arrived we spread out around two of the reserved tables and waited. The weather was nearly perfect with just a light breeze wafting under the canopy. Around 4:15 some of us started ordering food and by 4:30 Mary Jo

had apologized profusely to the manager about the empty seats and he had graciously agreed to keep the Reserved signs up for a little longer. Soon after a lot of joking and good conversation, large plates loaded with food started to arrive and the feasting began.

Those at our table agreed the food was excellent and the quantities exceptional and all three couples had boxes to take home. We also agreed that it was embarrassing that a club the size of ours could only muster 14 members for a weekend late lunch/early dinner.

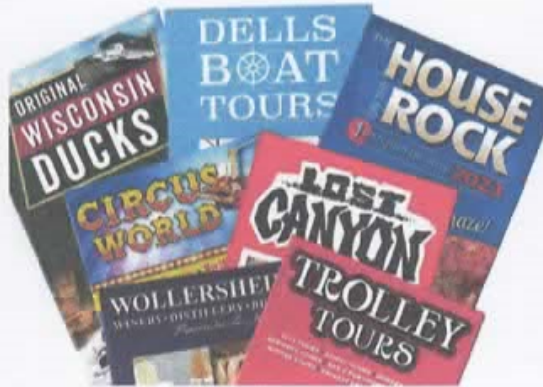


2025 NCCC Convention



We invite you to join us in the Wisconsin Dells and Lake Delton area of Wisconsin for the 66th Annual NCCC Convention August 17 – 22, 2025

The Scenic Wisconsin Dells area is an exciting and beautiful resort area for to gather for partying as well as sightseeing, driving unique roads and exploring everything the area has to offer. Wisconsin Dells is the Water Park Capital of the World.



Wisconsin Dells is about an hour north of Madison, WI. There is plenty to see and do in the Dells and even more throughout the surrounding area. The Host Hotel will be the Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center conveniently located for all activities just off I-90/94 at Exit 92. The Room Rate at The Kalahari will be \$156.03 including taxes, free parking, no resort fee. Guests will have free entry to the Tom Foolery Amusement Park as well as free use of Indoor and Outdoor Water Parks. Entertainment, Parties and both Hosted Tours and Self Guided Tours are in the planning stages. Competitive Events are being planned for 2 Rallyes, 3 Drags, PC Car Show, Concours d'Elegance, Funkhana, Autocross, High Speed (not Time Trials), 2 Scavenger Hunts, Valve Cover Races and an Overall Competitor Competition.

To save travel, Speed events will be run on Tuesday (the 19th) swapping tracks around noon. Planning for the Autocross and High Speed Events is focusing on making it possible to give all competitors four runs.



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Autocross will be run on the Briggs & Stratton 8/10 mile Motorplex shown above and with an X inside the Racetrack

High Speed will run on the 4.1 Mile Racetrack

All 3 Drag events will be held on Thursday (the 21st) at the Rock Falls Raceway just south of Eau Claire, WI. It is a little ways to drive (mostly along I-90/I-94) but so worth it to drag on an NHRA 1/4 Mile track that is so clean, well maintained and professionally staffed!



www.rockfallsraceway.com



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