



Western New York Corvette Club

Volume 16, Issue 4 VETTES VOICE

APRIL 2025

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Newsletter

Information / Articles for the newsletter may be emailed to:

Charlene Drogi
drogicd@gmail.com

President's Letter

Hello Everyone:
What we've all been waiting for is finally here - nice weather to get our corvettes out. I washed our Corvette tonight and took it for a ride.

We've had several fun events in the past couple months. See the articles and pictures in the newsletter. The Installation Dinner had 60 members attend. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and music. 65 members attended our last General Membership meeting. Maria Gump surprised Gary Milsom with a birthday cake and it was delicious!!

Welcome to all the new members! It's great to see you attending events and meetings. We look forward to getting to know you.

June 11 is the All Corvette Show at West Herr Chevrolet on Transit Road. Several members who usually help with this event will be out of town. Please show up if you can help out. It's great to see all the members working together and having fun. Charlene and I have been putting plans together for the club picnic in August. Last year was a lot of fun even with the hard rain at the end of the day. We have more games and fun planned!

May 4, we are looking forward to going to the Warplane Museum in Ontario, Canada with the Niagara Corvette Club. Each year we meet up for a cruise with the Canadian Club. Every other year we take turns hosting.

If there's an event or suggestion you have, please forward to Geanine or Maria. They do a great job putting events together for everyone to enjoy. Til Next Time,
C1-C8 they're all great!!
President John

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Sat May 31, 2025 at 6:30pm

Lt Col Matt Urban VFW Post 7275,
3741 Walden Ave. Lancaster NY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Janet Mattar	5/2
Peter Natalzia	5/3
Karen Sparks	5/7
Martin Pietruszewski	5/19
Bill Pukalo	5/23
George Sparks	5/23
Rose Ricigliano	5/24
Karen DeFilippo	5/29
Mary Ann Kreamer	5/30
Bill Shephard	5/30



GET WELL WISHES

Condolences to Karen DeFilippo and Rob Cassenti on the passing of Karen's grandson.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Douglas Pfeiffer
Dave Lutz
Patti Lutz
Lou Kubala

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WNYCC 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun May 4 - NCC Spring Cruise – This is a rain or shine event!!!! [See page 5 for details.](#)
Hamilton, Ontario - Canadian Warplane Museum. Don't forget your passports

Wed May 14 - Opening Cruise Night at VFW Post - Shine only!!
Lt Col Matt Urban VFW Post 7275, 3741 Walden Ave. Lancaster NY

Fri-Sun May 16-18 Corvette Festival in Watkins Glen

You need to pre-register for this event; Sat morning is the car show (\$70 per car) and Sat night is the dinner (\$40 per person). We are staying at the Fall Motel in Montour Falls.

Mon May 26 Memorial Day Parade

830am Meet at Lake Avenue Veterans Park, Lake Ave at Pardee Ave, Lancaster NY; Services begin at 9am and the parade will follow down Lake Ave. The parade route is Lake Avenue, continue on School St, then left on Pleasant Ave, then left on Central Ave and will end on Clark S at the Lancaster Town Hall. Free refreshments after the parade at the Lt Col Matt Urban VFW Post 7275, 3741 Walden Ave. Lancaster NY

Sat May 31 General Meeting 630pm Lt Col Matt Urban VFW Post 7275, 3741 Walden Ave. Lancaster NY

Mon June 2 Alden Cruise Night – Shine only - First cruise of the year with parade through town to the Alden Town Park and a live band (Boys of Summer) at the park. Food available for purchase.

Mon June 9 Lockport Cruise Night featuring Corvettes

Wed June 11 West Herr All Corvette Cruise (Rain Date June 12)

Thurs June 19 (Juneteenth Holiday) Sprague's & Cuba Cheese - tentative

Sat June 21 – Outdoor concert at the Post - Tickets are \$10 each; 2 bands, Black Horse and Boomerang
Proceeds will be used to help the Post purchase their 5th service dog to help a veteran.

Sat June 28 General Meeting is cancelled

Sat June 28 Wiers' Wine & Cheese Party 3pm (at capacity)

Jim & Evelyn Wier have graciously offered to host another party at their home in Elma. Everyone brings a bottle of their favorite wine and a snack, appetizer or dessert to share. The Club will buy pizza. Please bring lawn chairs. This event is limited to 45 members and is at capacity. There is a waiting list; contact Geanine if you want to be added to the waiting list.

Mon June 30 Wurlitzer Cruise Night featuring Corvettes

Fri July 18 St John's Car Show in Alden

Fri Aug 1 St Gabriel's Car Cruise

Thurs Aug 14 Akron Cruise Night featuring Corvettes

Sat Aug 16 – Picnic

Sat Aug 23 General Meeting 630pm

Sun Aug 31 COB Corvette Caravan

Mon Sept 8 Fall Cruise at VFW Post (Rain Date Sept 9)

Lt Col Matt Urban VFW Post 7275, 3741 Walden Ave. Lancaster NY

Sun Sept 14 Pembroke Car Show

Sat Sept 20 Forest Lawn Cemetery (tentative) (at capacity)

This is a private 2 hour trolley tour for the Club. Cost is \$35 per person. This event is closed as we have reached capacity of the trolley at 35 persons. There is a waiting list. Contact Geanine to be added to it. More details to follow.

Sat Sept 27 General Meeting 630pm

Sat Oct 18 General Meeting 630pm

Sat Nov 22 General Meeting 630pm

Sat Dec 6 – Xmas Party at VFW Post

My Corvette Quest

By Jim Shemansky

As a young man, I always enjoyed going to Classic Car Shows and Cruise Nights. I even owned a couple of "project vehicles", a 1951 Ford car and a 1956 Ford F100 Ford Pickup Truck. Finally, I decided to get a classic vehicle that was mostly done to own, ride in and take to a car show. I always admired the sporty Chevrolet Corvette. Its classic lines and power.

Ultimately, I purchased a 1975 Corvette Stingray Convertible from Corvette Central. It was bright red, with a black top and black interior and a 4-speed. The car included a removable hardtop. It was in their showroom and they were selling it. I paid the freight to get it here. We joined the Western New York Car Club when they had a booth at the Cavalcade of Cars car show.

We had the 1975 for a while but I saw my current car at a dealer and opted for the 2005 Corvette convertible that we own today. The 1975 Sting Ray was traded in. My 2005 is more comfortable and has more features. We are happy with it.

Did you know that Schwinn bicycles named a few of their models "Corvette" and "Sting Ray"? That was to copy the success of the Corvette sports Car. I bought a Schwinn Corvette frame and got parts together to make a usable bicycle. I have pictured the frame here for you to see that it says Corvette on the chain guard. I now own 2 Corvettes!

It is an original 1956 frame. What I have made with this Frankenstein bike is a usable bike that does not have all vintage Schwinn parts, but those that fit. Right now it is one-speed with a coaster brake. I have a new rim to spoke with a 3 Speed hub. I also have to find someone to mix original touchup color for it..

Jane Gapinski and I have enjoyed the WNYCC with all the friends we have made and the social events we were able to attend. It is all so priceless!

For Sale: 2016 C7 Corvette Z51 Convertible

with automatic transmission. Long Beach Red exterior and Kalahari leather interior, 6.2-liter V8 engine - 460 horsepower - 465 lb-ft of torque. Asking \$53,000. Peter Kost, 716-725-4478. Feel free to call me to review the cars history and updates.

Looking to sell our Corvette. It looks great and drives like new. The automatic convertible top can be operated at speeds up to 30mph.

Several updates done at Paddock Chevrolet, including some under extended warranty. These included new brake rotors, water pump, coolant flush and change, new timing chain & gear, timing tensioner, serpentine belt, spark plugs, wires, oil pump and wire harness, rear differential, and torque tube. Tires are less than 3yrs old.

Still has Quality Drive Protec Extended warranty coverage through BMW until September 2026 which is transferable to a new owner for a \$50 fee.

Z51 Performance Package includes: Slotted brake rotors, Electronic limited-slip differential, High-performance tires and wheels

Interior: Kalahari brown Leather seats, Dual-zone automatic climate control, Bose premium audio system, Wireless Apple Car Play, Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system with navigation, Performance Data Recorder, Wind restrictor

Other features include: Traction control and stability control systems, Rearview front view cameras, Front and side-impact airbags, OnStar with automatic crash response, Anti-lock braking system



April 13 - Members enjoyed a delicious Dinner and Matinee show called Now and Then at Bobby J's Italian American Grille. John and I signed up at the last minute. We were not disappointed. If you've never been you'll want to check out upcoming dinner matinee's. Charlene Drogi



Installation Dinner at The Columns - 3/29/25

Article by Nancy Egan; Pictures by Tony Jones and Maria Gump

On March 29 the club held their annual installation dinner at The Columns Banquet Hall in Elma. Attended by 60 members of the club, it was a very nice evening. Starting with Italian wedding soup and salads and continuing on with a beef and chicken buffet. Music was provided by Hastings Duo and got people up and dancing for a very relaxing night. It was like a reception where you knew everyone and could enjoy yourself wherever you sat. John introduced the "new" board and thanked everyone. John was presented with some fancy drinking mugs and a gift card for all his hard work. Now let the snow stop and let's get those cars out!



Sun May 4 NCC Spring Cruise – Hamilton, Ontario - Canadian Warplane Museum
Rain or shine event! Don't forget your passports!

8am Meet at the Clinton Rossler Valu Plaza in Cheektowaga near McDonald's (This is off the 190)

830am Leave for the Peace Bridge -

9am Meet NCC at the Fort Erie Secondary School on Hwy 3?

The route from the Peace Bridge is an easy 10 minutes on the QEW, with 2 turns.

930am Leave the school for a 90 minute scenic ride to the Museum.

11am Arrive at the Hamilton Warplane Museum

Note: We will park our Corvettes in the fenced private parking area

They can get our 30 minute tour in when we arrive and then seat us for lunch.

Lunch Buffet Menu: Appetizers, Rigatoni Bolognese, Penne Pasta with Fresh Vegetables in white sauce, Salad, Fruit and Sweets Platter, and Water, Soft Drinks, Coffee, and an Assortment of Teas

WNYCC Olympicnic!!! Saturday, August 16 - 12pm - ?

Join us for a fun day full of food, games, music, friends in the beautiful Alden Town Park. Last year fun and laughter were had playing the egg toss and balloon toss games. More games being added!! Bring your lawn chairs, board games, outdoor games. We plan to have the picnic catered. Plenty of parking. Restrooms close by. Large shelter. More information to come.



When A Meeting Turns Into A Big Surprise

I just wanted to say thank you to all the members who attended the meeting on Saturday, April 26th. I was able to pull off one big surprise birthday party for Gary Milsom. The look of shock and surprise on his face was priceless! Funny thing, at first, he didn't fully realize that it was to him everyone was singing happy birthday! I'd been planning this for a few weeks and he truly didn't have a clue. You all helped in making his birthday a truly special one! I'd also like to give a shout out to all my accomplices in this caper, and a special thank you to Stud-e-Baker, from whom I purchased the cakes. I think all will attest that chocolate or vanilla; they were both delicious!

Maria Gump



NCM AMBASSADOR - APRIL 2025 REPORT

GEORGE AND KAREN SPARKS
George Sparks Cell: 716-432-8799
Email: buffalogeorge@gmail.com



No report, attending BASH, submitted "What is the story of the 1953 Corvette?"

Click on link for calendar dates and information: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/museum-events/>

MONTHLY NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM – NEWS: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/news/>

What is the story of the 1953 Corvette?



Since the National Corvette Museum is doing restoration work on a 1953 Corvette, this is a great time to tell that story. <https://www.corvetteblogger.com/2025/03/25/video-national-corvette-museum-is-doing-some-preservation-work-on-this-special-1953-corvette-roadster/>

Let's start where it all began...

It's 1952 / Harley Earl / Watkins Glen, NY / Project Opel-plaster model/EX52 - EX 122 / GM Motorama at the Waldorf Astoria-January 17, 1953. There were many concepts...but one stood out. The "concept EX122" car was so well received that GM moved from prototype to production with the first two (2) production cars coming off the line in just over five (5) months. GM touting of the car's "special 160 hp Chevrolet engine with three (3) carburetors and a Powerglide Automatic transmission" and the motto of "What's next" was born. The Corvette story is a never ending one, being America's Sports Car is amazing and historic. Presently, we are into the 6th model year of the latest generation of Corvette, known as C8. More innovation, more technology, and of course more power – whether fossil fuel or other, time will tell. One thing is for sure, the Legend will live on in the hearts and minds of many.

Back to EX 122, the "Motorama – Waldorf Astoria car" and the famous picture along with the pose with the Golden Gate bridge in the background, also the side chrome piece. Why, you ask, is this important. The EX 122 was a "one-off". There were two (2) distinct features that changed from the prototype to actual production. 1) the chrome piece was inverted, and the word "Chevrolet" was below the chrome piece on the EX 122, all the production cars the chrome piece was pointing up and the word "Chevrolet" was placed above the chrome piece; 2) the stone guard for the headlights on the EX 122 could be folded forward by unlatching the stone guard at the top of the headlight, however all production cars had to have the chrome headlight ring unscrewed and the wire stone guard was removed from the underside of that ring.

What about the very first production Corvette vin number 001. Click on link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwJmGaqnYY>

Oh, you ask, whatever happened to EX 122?

When its show duties were over, it was retired and returned to the engineering department, refurbished, painted red and then used as a company courtesy car. In 1956, with over 5,000 miles, it was sold, and three years later it was sold again, for \$1000.00. In 2003, in the hands of its latest owner, it was restored back to its original 1953 show car condition.

But "why" the chrome piece and word "Chevrolet" were changed/moved from EX 122 to actual production Corvettes. The answer to that remains a mystery.

Many people assisted in the research for this story. I thank Betty Hardison, Library and Archives Coordinator, Robert Maxhimer, Daniel Garrett and the National Corvette Museum Library and Archives Team for their tireless efforts and dedication plus my constant queries, your patience is exemplary. There were numerous Corvette historians, enthusiasts, and contributors, such as Steve Garrett and Keith Cornett.

<https://tork.buzz/classics/The-Allure-of-the-1953-Chevrolet-Corvette-An-Icon-of-Speed-and-Style-20250330-0037.html>

EX 122



WALDORF ASTORIA EX 122



ACTUAL PRODUCTION 1953-55



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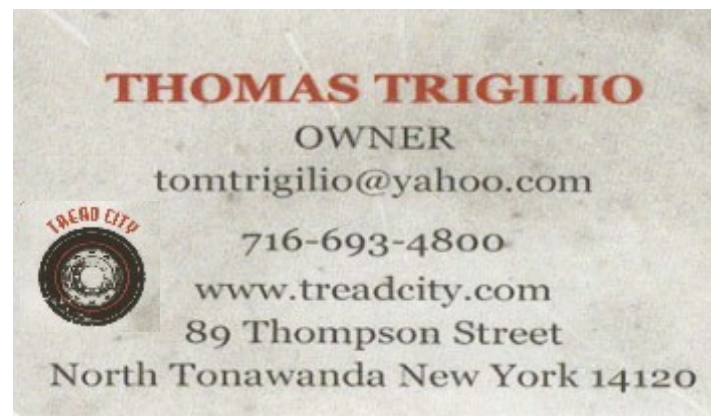
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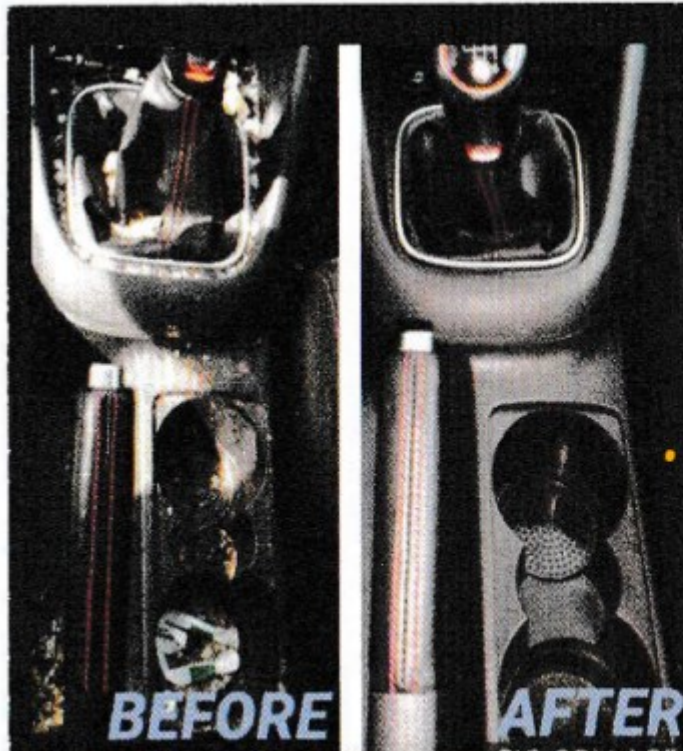
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