



# CORVETTE ASSOCIATION

# GLASS SASS

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 4 APRIL 2024



WVCA President  
Kelly Smothers

## INSIDE THIS MONTH

Pres Msg	1,4
Minutes	2-3
Mid engine	6-8
Paul	9-10
Kent	11-12



**G**reetings Veters, This month Andrea volunteered to put some words together for my monthly article. Trust me, I rarely am at a loss for words, but lately.....

From the desk of Kelly's Trip Planner:

Happy Spring everyone. I've added some updates to this letter for the monthly Glass Sass. The WVCA Events update has expanded exponentially as other car clubs, communities and charity groups finalize their summer calendars. As I see events or car shows that I'm interested in, I'm penciling them in on the calendar, sharing them to the Facebook group and adding them to the list.

The list (event list members) has gotten REALLY long! When I open the WVCA Events email in gmail I have to click a message at the bottom that says to "view entire message". At the bottom of the email, I've been attaching flyers for the events are coming up next on the calendar. Please let us know what you think of the WVCA Events email, too much, not enough?

What do you want to see as part of your club membership? Some of the events are annual events that WVCA participates in every year, like the Keizerfest Parade or the Cherry Blossom Run. These events will have WVCA noted in bold print, which means the event is sanctioned by WVCA and covered under our club insurance. The Keizerfest and our own bi-annual car show require the club to have insurance. Our club insurance also allows us to cover a limited number of other events.

You'll notice that the majority of the events are car shows. This is my sales pitch to try and get more people to attend car shows. Most of the car shows we choose to attend benefit a charity.

Cascade High School Car Show, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Cruising McMinnville all benefit causes we think are worthy. Please don't think you need to be competitive to attend a car show. Here's how car shows work for us. If there's a group of people attending, we all meet up somewhere so we can arrive and park together. You pay the registration fee. Some people fill out the info to compete in the show and some people don't.

We socialize, check out the vendors, get some lunch and spend the day out in the sunshine (or under a pop-up in comfy camp chairs). Some people leave early and that's okay. If you want to go with us and leave early, we can make that work. If you want to come late and leave early that's okay too! Show up and have lunch with us!

You don't have to stay all day! As I've told many people, taking Kelly to the car show is like taking my dogs to the dog park. He gets to run around, socialize, and sniff the tailpipes. I hope you will join us!

**Glass Sass** is published monthly. The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the month. Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at Northwest Car and Motorcycle Museum, 3995 Brooklake Rd NE, Salem, Oregon 97303, or if you can not make it in person, you can go on line at <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/wvca>. We welcome all Corvette enthusiasts and prospective members at any of our meetings. The Willamette Valley Corvette Association, Inc., was organized in 1968 to create an esprit-de-corps among Corvette owners; to further the general interest in Corvettes as a sports car; to provide an organization for the exchange of technical information between Corvette owners, dealers and the manufacturer; to encourage skillful handling and safe driving; to provide social gatherings of Corvette owners with a common interest; to encourage and assist members to compete in sanctioned events sponsored by WVCA and by other clubs with similar interests, and to encourage dealer/club co-operation and promote community betterment. Visit our website for more current information regarding our Club activities and events:

<http://www.willamettevalleycorvettes.com>

#### BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

**President/Webmaster: Kelly Smothers**

US Bank Controlling Party

971-241-3953

[president@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:president@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)

OR

[webmaster@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:webmaster@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)

**Vice President: Joe Peters**

503-769-5620

[vp@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:vp@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)

**Secretary: Julie Schwerdt**

503-421-0733

[secretary@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:secretary@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)

**Treasurer: Brent Wilson**

503-419-7106

[treasurer@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:treasurer@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)

**Historians: Steve Sims/Gary Hill**

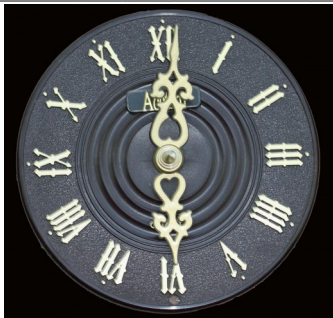
805-717-2159 541-554-3866

[historian@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:historian@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)

**Member-at Large: Dave Schwerdt**

503 266-5187

[memberatlarge@willamettevalleycorvettes.com](mailto:memberatlarge@willamettevalleycorvettes.com)



# WVCA MEETING MINUTES

April 4th 2024

Meeting called to order 6:30 PM

Kelly asked for dinner Count 30

Guest: Richard Silver 2006 Red

50 50 drawing, tickets have been passed around.

New Members to vote: None

#### **Birthday:**

Dorothy has done an amazing job getting the Birthday's together for FaceBook.

Martie Valenzuela 04/09, Tom Paddock 04/10

Gary Hill 04/16, Darrel Holmes 04/17

Shane Massey 04/21, Roch Belisle 04/27

Jeff Penick 04/28, Don Christensen 04/29

Robert Crocker 04/29

**Approval of Minutes.** Having no corrections offered, the minutes are approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report, Dr. Wilson

Balance in Checking	\$ 4,452.97	
Petty Cash	\$ 146.50	
Savings	\$12,436.81	(\$ Jan \$0.52)
Interest, Feb \$0.49)		
Total	\$17036.28	

Motion to accept the Treasurers Report: Motion was made (Julie) and seconded (Andrea) to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in Favor was passed.

#### **President's Report:**

If you would like to volunteer for Events or cruises please see Kelly.

Kelly is watching 14 folks on the potential Member List

American Muscle bought Eckler Corvettes

#### **Vice-President's Report:**

- April 11th- Cherry Blossom Run, 9am Registration at Harbor Freight by the old Costco. We are co-hosting the last stop with the Capital Area Mustang Club. We want to make this stop more of an event with food, drink, pictures of cars at the gas pump. etc. Need Volunteers at our table and we need someone to get the supplies for our stop. be at Harbor Freight South at 8:30.

- So far we have Wayne Kreger, John and Mollie
  - April 27th - ODVA - Oregon Veterans Home Car Show Lebanon Sign up with Kelly at Jacket night.
  - May 4th - West Valley High School Key Club Car Show - Yakima Wa. Registration 8:00 Show from 9:00 - 2:00 Fee \$10.00
  - May 11th Cascade High School Car Show - 9:00 - 2:00
  - 18 May - KeizerFest parade. Staging at Kreger's: 2521 Suffolk Lane NE, Keizer Email
- May 19 - Brothers Collection will be open for the Oregon Police Officer Association Fundraiser <https://bit.ly/4aBc2aO>
- 24 - 27 May - Big Sky Corvette Meet Missoula Mt.
- May 27 - Mary's Peak Cruise - Meet @ Linn Benton Community College @ 10:00
  - Starting May until August (31-May, 28-June, 26-July, 30-August) Stayton's Last Friday TGI Friday - Cruise in - 3rd Street in Stayton - Enter from Washington Street
  - June 2 - The Gut Car Show - 8:00 am - \$15.00 - 1330 Hall Street NE Salem Or
  - June 8 - Paralyzed Veterans of America - June 8 - Brooks Car and Motorcycle Museum @ 9:00 am \$15:00
  - 22-June - Carlton fun days car show - Carlton Or.
  - 23 - June Perfume and Exhaust all girls cruise NO BOYS ALLOWED \$5.00 10:00 Walery's Pizza
  - 28 - 30 June - High Desert Car show Bend OR
  - 29-June - Sweet Home Sweet Ride Car Show - Sweet Home OR
  - July 13- Vets and Hops
  - ☐June 15 - WVCA BBQ Pit Roast and Picnic - Wayne has a few things to say
  - July 14 - Springhill North Albany Car Show - Gates Open @ 8:00 \$25,00 Registration Fee
  - ☐July 19 - 20 - Cascade Corvette Club, Corvette's at Kendall (Andrea and Kelly will be judging)
  - 26 - 27-July - Spokane Glass on the Grass - Spokane Wa.
  - 27 July - Brent Strohmeier Memorial Car Show - Sunrise Park in Sublimity
  - ☐August 10th, Corvette Day, Portland Cars and Coffee/Sherwood, Langers
  - August 17, 2024 - Endless Summer Cruise In - 9:00 - Ilani Casino Cowlitz Way, Ridgefield Wa.

- The end of August Caravan to Bowling Green. The Assembly Plant we Be open. NW Caravan August 22-28, 2024 Bowling green 29-31 August.

- We are taking names now for Jacket Night Hosts in 2024, so if you want to host a particular night. May has come open. and December (?) are still available. Contact Joe Peters.

- December 7th Christmas Dinner Roths.

We are also taking Names for Monthly Cruises for '24, Let Joe Know if you want to lead a cruise to ????

**Committees:**

**SACC**, Cherry Blossom Festival an Bay City Cruisers

**Museum** – None

**Picnic** – Waynes 6/14 (preparation) -6/15 (Actual Picnic) Pig and Beef

**Bowling Green update:** Larry Raaf

**Caravan** August 21-24<sup>th</sup> to Bowling Green

**Christmas Dinner** – Roth Booked for 12-7-2024 Dinner, Gift Exchange,

**New Business.** - None

**Old Business** - Joe name tags

**Tech Time:**

Isaac – C5 Suspension, Carbon wheel, New Carpet

Andrea - Sway Bar Links, Swap out Magna Rid

Paul – 73 Corvette Rubber Bumper discintigrating, need painted Red

**Good of the Order:** None  
Business Cards

**Trivia:**

What 1<sup>st</sup> corvette drive by wire – fly by wire C5? Bob 1997

What 2 major improvements were made with the introduction of the C5 Corvette Top LS1 transmission Shane/Ken

Extra Credit

C5 Chassis was redesigned, what was the biggest portion of the redesign – Frame.

\$177 collected and Club Gets \$95 and each winner get \$48.

Bob Cozart \$48.00

Julie Hughes \$48.00

Adjorned 7:30

The Cherry Blossom Run is the only Poker Run that the club attends annually. If you know of other poker runs, please let us know! I would love to go to more of them. The club is going to meet at the Harbor Freight on Hawthorn (Old Costco on Mission) at 9am on Saturday, 13 April. If you're new to poker runs, here's how they work.

At the first stop, you pay for a poker card (or multiple) and get directions. The poker card will have a list of stops. At each stop listed on the card you will draw a playing card. The card you draw will be noted on your poker card. At the last stop you should have a "full hand of cards" or fully completed poker hand which is what you will turn in. The person with the best hand at the end of the day wins. For the Cherry Blossom Run one of the stops is usually Willamette Valley Pie Company and another is at a winery.

It's not a race so we like to take time and patronize the businesses. As Kelly says it's an eating club with a corvette habit! WVCA is also a member of the Salem Auto Club Council (SACC), the host of the Cherry Blossom Run. Typically, a member of WVCA staffs a table at one of the stops. Historically we have managed the table at the last stop. This year the last stop will be hosted by WVCA, the Capitol Area Mustang Club of Oregon and the NW Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum. Thank you so much to Doug Hunter, John and Molly Hendricks and Wayne Kreger for volunteering to represent WVCA at the last stop!

The Keizerfest Parade is the only parade that the club participates in annually. The waiting for the parade to start is usually much longer than the actual parade. Ha! Bring a chair! It is great fun driving down the street with all the people waving and cheering at you. The Keizer community really turns out for the parade. This year the parade is on Saturday, 18 May. Mark your calendars and let Wayne Kreger know you want to join [wjkreger@comcast.net](mailto:wjkreger@comcast.net).

As the nice weather returns, we will also try to plan some club weekend cruises. If you have a drive you'd like the club to go on, but don't want to try to lead it yourself, please reach out to the board. There are several members who are comfortable leading drives and it saves us from having to come up with all the ideas. If you have another event you'd like to send out to the club for interest, please let us know! There is no set expectation for a club cruise, although usually, yes, there is food involved somewhere along the way. It can be anything from an all-day cruise with a stop for lunch, starting somewhere for breakfast and cruising from there, or an afternoon cruise for ice cream. Even a picnic cruise would be great! See how that all has food? Hahaha 😊

I am still working on plans for the President's Run, 14-15 September. The President's run will be an overnight trip. As soon as we've figured out the logistics we will let you know. Lastly, I've also reserved an event space at Roth's Event Center for our annual Christmas Party on Saturday, 7 December.

Summary:

- Car Shows: Think of them as cruises to events and lunch!
- Summer Cruises: Know a nice drive and want to get out? Let the board know!
- President's Run: Overnight trip still planned for 14-15 September

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas please let me know!

Here's to another great summer of driving!

Kelly's Trip Planner, Andrea Smothers

Thanks Dear, and we know I like those tailpipes. Sniff sniff. In addition, I have said many times at our monthly meetings that we participate in a lot of these shows as they are usually in support of a 'cause' that we believe in. Whether it is veterans organizations, funds for youth scholarships with regards to 'trade skill' alternatives and occasionally such events as March of Dimes and or Make A Wish. All the while being able to socialize and look at some pretty darn cool 'rides'. Maybe your idea of a fun day isn't sitting under a canopy, kicking back with friends telling stories about that time Andrea ran us through a Locust Swarm, or reading a great book, all while sipping on your next to favorite beverage and having a meal prepared by a local food truck vendor. But we like it, so that's what we do.

Kelly



**Ken  
has a  
new  
Toy!**



**In the parking lot waiting for the annual April poker run to begin**



## Mid Engine Monthly Update

*John Elegant, MidEngineCorvetteForum*

This month's write up could be best summarized: *"What do we know about the C8 today? What do we think the next model ZR1 will be? And, what other new 2025 C8 components/attributes would we see?"*

### Is this going to be the ZORA Edition?

Does this look familiar to you and to Z06 GT3.R fans?

We thank Peter C @ FastPixels for this rendering. How would you like one of those in your garage? Especially without racing series restrictions so that it truly would produce 1000+ horsepower and perhaps in the 900 lb/ft torque range?



### ZR1 Rumors OR (?) Are They Really "Future Facts?"

I have gotten the following from two reliable sources...they are not identical in what they shared nor will either go public. So please take the following with yet a little non-confirmation in mind.

\*There are a few ZR1 mules are being assembled on the Bowling Green Assembly line. Their engines are officially called "LT7's". They are now being made at a special GM powertrain assembly facility in Michigan. At some point, prior to all customer cars starting down the line, all LT7 engine assembly would transition to the BGA Powertrain Build Center.

\*The ZR1's wheels are sized 20"x10" front and 21"x13" rear. That might that mean its front remain 275's or will they be 285's? As to the rears, will they remain 345's? I doubt the latter and would expect the rears to be 355's.

\*BGA is already making some 2025's, (e.g., both ZR1's and non ZR1's). One of them that was made last week was in a new for 2025 color. Think of something "bright" and as a pure color.

\*There was a day last week when a bunch of ZR1 CTF's (Captured Test Fleet cars) were made. That included both coupes and HTC's. It's nice to already 100% confirm that ZR1's will be offered in both versions!

\*The LT7 "is an LT6 with turbo's." That means it has a flat plane crank. Its exhaust is deeper throated than the LT6's.

\*ZR1 will have the carbon fiber wheel option. However, would they look the same as the current five-spoke Z06 and E-Ray wheels? Or might they be majorly different - possibly a seven or even nine spoke wheel?

\*Do not expect the first ZR1's being customer delivered early in the 2025 model year.... Think quite a bit later than that. Maybe even into the spring of next year...

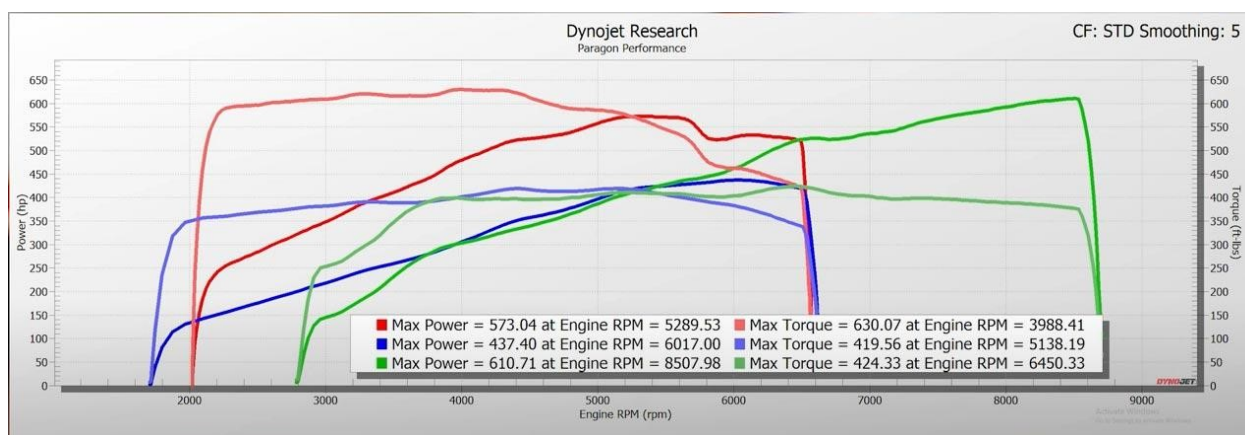
Despite our friends and inside contacts, we still do not have a clue as to when or where the ZR1 would be revealed. Since we do not know about the reveal, what are the leading rumors around that? There are three rumors. But again, all are pure guesswork. *Will the ZR1's reveal be?*

1. Less than a month away at the National Corvette Museum Bash on April 25-27<sup>th</sup>?
2. Mid/Late August at Corvettes At Carlisle?

At the end of the 7th National Corvette Caravan when approximately 5,000 Corvettes arrive at Bowling Green (when the NCM holds its special Anniversary event this year August 29th-31st)?

E-Ray's Major Torque (Far more than the Z06 and the Stingray):

Thanks to Paragon Performance for the following two charts showing the E-Ray's horsepower and torque and also how its torque is so much more compared to the Z06 and the Stingray.



Corvette Model	Max Wheel H.P.	Max Wheel Torque (ft-lbs)
Stingray	437.4 hp @ 6017 RPM	419.6 @ 5138 RPM
Z06	610.7 hp @ 8508 RPM	424.3 @ 6450 RPM
E-Ray	573.0 hp @ 5290 RPM	630.1 @ 3988 RPM

E-Ray's Limited Production & Allocations

We know from previous experience that a new Corvette model has a long “ramp up” period in which production starts out very slowly. It typically ends after two or three months. Yet so far, we have a double E-Ray ramp-up reduction being even slower than expected. As of this article being written (about 4 months after E-Ray customer production first started), just over 200 E-Rays have been produced. Even with a typical slow ramp up, we would be expecting 250+ more would have been made by now. We see indication of this changing soon since E-Ray allocations have been ZERO the last few months. With the obvious being that if allocations are not granted, is GM planning a very slow continued customer E-Ray ramp up for at least the next month or two? As to why...we don't know.

On the positive side, the first E-Rays have been arriving at dealerships, and their owners are driving them home with massive smiles. If the model year were to end on June 30<sup>th</sup>, could the E-Ray only be produced numbers-wise similar to a 500 or 1,000 unit run “Special Edition” model? It sure is looking like a possibility!

### Allocation Update:

Another allocation order cycle has just occurred last week (as I was writing this). And now, for the third month (and five Corvette order cycles in a row), there was not one official, regular channels E-Ray allocation nationwide. However, there were (a handful of “on the side, bonus allocations” granted in February. E-Ray production last week was averaging 4 per day, been 5 daily the last few. Candidly, these are paltry numbers in the fourth month of E-Ray production. Might there be just a total of 500 E-Rays produced during the entire 2024 model year? At the current pace, that would happen..., that is unless things change in a major way.

Some specifics of E-Ray allocation and production to date are:

1. McMulkin has gotten 26 total E-Ray allocations so far.

Other top dealers have also gotten small amounts, totaling a touch over 50 for the top three dealerships. But if we take the historical averages for the big three dealers (MacMulkin, Ciocca and Criswell), they get about 9% of total, nationwide allocation.

That would mean that there have been only about 450 total E-Ray allocations granted so far. This compares to just over 200 E-Ray’s made so far. So still about 250 granted allocations yet to build...

### Drive An E-Ray Order Before Ordering Yours

There are now two E-Rays that are within a week of joining the NCM Motorsports Park fleet. You can rent and drive them on their great track (e.g. “try if before you buy it...”:[bit.ly/3vqCm8z](https://bit.ly/3vqCm8z))



### Ahh...Dealer Greed Knows No Bounds

An E-Ray is listed for sale at \$389,995. The E-Ray is VIN # 18. I think it is just to get attention and focus eyes on that dealership. On the positive side LOL, it does have the expensive OEM carbon fiber wheels. But on the negative side, it was flipped well within six months of its build date, so it already has lost its GM warranty.



## Get Out There- Let's Take a Drive

By: Paul Ennor

It's finally happened; Spring has arrived! I'm sitting here at my computer looking out over Salem through my window and I just asked myself, "Why are you sitting here pecking away at a keyboard when you could be out for a drive in the Corvette"? There are two answers to that question: One, Buzz reminded me that it's time again for another article this month and, two, I already took the old Vette out for a short drive earlier today to enjoy this sunny spring day. Taking a drive around the hills of West Salem on this beautiful morning has given me an idea for this month's column.

I think that all of us who live here in the Willamette Valley are quite

spoiled. It seems like we take for granted the beauty of this part of the world that we call home. As I sit here typing I just glance over my monitor to see a snow-capped Mount Hood rising in its majesty over the valley

flanked by numerous other frosty peaks along the top of the Cascades. The cherry and apple trees below are in full bloom speckling the hills in pink and white among the lush green new grass and tree foliage of an Oregon spring. My drive around the Eola Hills was just as spectacular. People travel from all over the country, even the world, to share the natural beauty of Oregon. Let us count ourselves as blessed to live here AND to have Corvettes to ride in to take it all in. All any of need to do is just hop in our Vette and head out in almost any direction to enjoy it.

When I was young, a long-long time ago, my father used to load up the family on nice Sundays and just go someplace. He normally didn't have the slightest idea where he was going, just driving our 54 Chevy exploring to see

what he could find. More often than not we would spend the day exploring roads less traveled. Dad used to say, "all roads go someplace, let's see where this one goes." Sometimes he would find that unmarked roads only went to the end of a canyon or former log deck somewhere. Then he would turn around and go back the way we came or, once in a while, back out after finding no place to turn around after the road just sort of petered out. It was those Sunday drives that instilled in me a desire to explore. I'm not suggesting that you should take your Vette on every back road you see. Actually, I suggest that you not do that. But if you have a pickup, SUV, or other tin car, well, give it a try. Just use common sense and don't trust a GPS to give you directions. They have been known to get people with no common sense in real trouble. OK, so if Lewis & Clark type adventures aren't for you then maybe a few suggestions for Corvette drives



might get you out there in Oregon.

What follows are some of the places I like to go. I will advise you that not all of these trip destinations involve a fine dining opportunity. Sorry about that. I know today's WVCA

group wants to eat at every stop. Other than a tank of gas and some free time all you need are some ideas as to which way to go. That my friends is what I intend to give you today. A few ideas. I will not lay out exact routes or itineraries in this column. Initially I thought I might try to do that but I would have ended up with a book length article, so I'm just going to outline a few of my favorite destinations and drives and leave it up to each of you to fill in the details and explore a little. Exploring is at least half the fun.

### Ideas

West of the River: Just travel West. Drive all over the hills of what's known today as Wine Country. Go out Bush College Road, past Zena then take any paved road.

You may end up in Amity or McMinnville. Plan a stop in Lafayette and you can waste most of a day browsing through antique stores, pack the Vette with treasures and just head home. Got hungry? Head into McMinnville and try McMenamin's. If you need more adventure just explore the roads in Yamill County. You might end up in Forest Grove or at President Kelley's place. Don't tell him I sent you though. Still on the West side? Did you know there is a Federal Prison in Sheridan? I doubt you want to visit it but you can drive by if you can find it. If you need to get back to Salem, skip Hwy 22 and try Perydale Road. There's a high school in Parydale that WVCA did home comings for a couple of times. Just keep going east, cross 99W and in a few miles you'll be on Wallace Road at the Lincoln Store, turn right and you're only about 5 miles from Salem. Now that was a quick fun drive in the country, wasn't it?

Head to the coast: So many ways to get there. From Salem most people drive straight west on Hwy 22. Some can't resist a stop at the casino but I advise you skip that stop. Stay on Hwy 22, not Hwy 18. They merge at Valley Junction. Follow the Hwy 22 signs. You've to make a right turn to do this. You'll be on a great Corvette road most of the rest of the way through the forest. You'll face a choice along the way. You can't make the wrong choice. One road goes toward Pacific City, the other goes to Hebo. Either is fine. No matter which way you choose you will join Hwy 101. If you're hungry again, Try the Pelican Pub in Pacific City or just go North to Tillamook. Can't be in Tillamook without a stop at the cheese factory. Stretch your legs, watch them make cheese, buy some to take home, have an ice cream cone and/or sandwich. Don't go back the way you came. If you drive the same road twice it wears out the pavement you know. Instead, take Hwy 6 toward Portland, but don't worry you won't actually have to fight Portland traffic



Several miles East of Tillamook you will see the Tillamook Forest Center. There's great parking and the place is worth a stop. No food here but good rest rooms and a great place to wander, learn history and enjoy the State Forest. Keep driving East. Take the exit to Forest Grove. From there take Hwy 47 south through Yamill and Carlton to McMinnville and follow the signs to Salem to get home.

A short drive South: Thompson's Mills | State Heritage Site  
32655 Boston Mill Dr, Shedd, OR 97377  
Just head south on I5 to Abany and from there go south a little more on 99E and find the address shown above. Years ago the club toured this place. It's only a short drive but worth the visit. No food here though.

The Covered Bridges of Linn County: Start this short trip in Albany or Stayton. I suggest that you Google "the covered bridges of Linn County," follow the directions to each bridge found on the county web site. Print it out and take it with you. Bring a camera. These bridges make terrific back drops for Corvette photos.

A loop through the 2020 fire destruction: From Salem drive East on Hwy 22 all the way to Santiam Junction where you turn onto Hwy 126 West toward Springfield. Note, I said "West"! If you take it East you will go to Sisters over the McKenzie Pass. That would be another fun run but for this trip try going West toward Springfield. 126 is a Corvette road, enjoy. You may find food at Clear Lake Resort. However, you may or may not want to take your Corvette onto the access road. It's not bad but you decide. A little further West is Belknap Hot Springs Resort. They have a beautiful formal garden that's worth the time.

McKenzie Pass via Sisters: Drive Hwy 22 over the Santiam Pass to Sisters. Lots of places to eat and spend money but when you finish in Sisters head back West through the round-about and take Hwy 126 West over the McKenzie pass. Wait until summer though because this road is closed until the snow is cleared. Take your camera again because the lava observatory offers lots of photo ops.

That will be it for this month. I may continue this theme next month. Have I given you any ideas about some drives to take here in God's country (aka Oregon).



*C-5 CORNER BY KENT MUHLE*

***The story of Kai Mana, Isaac and Lori Palmer's 2000 Z51 C5***

In 2021, the Palmer's bought their first Corvette, a beautiful Nassau Blue Z51 automatic coupe. Lori's folks, Dave and Beverlee Linn (past WVCA members,) were into Corvettes, owning a 63 split window, a 73 coupe and a 2004 convertible, and were past members of WVCA. When I asked Isaac "why a Corvette?" he answered simply. "They (Lori's folks) instilled the love of Corvettes in Lori so when we decided to get a "fun car" she basically told me it was our only option." I like her! Isaac continued... "Since the car is "Nassau Blue" which is based off the color of the ocean in the Bahamas and Lori's mom loved Hawaii we named it Kai Mana. In Hawaiian that means Sea of Power. We added a few Hawaiian flower vinyls in memory of her mom. For her dad we added an adapter that let us put on a regular shift knob on the automatic. We found the original shift knob from his 63 split window when we were cleaning out their house, so we installed that in our car in honor of him."

I met Isaac at the 2023 Glass on the Grass show, and since then have followed his modifications, as well as helping to diagnose some unauthorized fluids on his garage floor. I recently visited Isaac and Kai Mana, and the mods he's done are tasteful and impressive. Starting with the engine compartment, the first thing that hits you is how clean it is, and how nice the matching Nassau Blue fuel rail covers look. Isaac also added an ECS all aluminum radiator, and a Vararam VR-B2 true cold air intake. The rest of the drive train is stock, with the exception of a Billy Boat Route 66 Exhaust. I really like the Billy Boat stuff, because you have the option of getting 4 oval tips to match the taillights, which is what is on Kai.

The exterior features a freshly paint corrected, ceram-

ic coated finish which has astonishing depth and brilliance. The wheel and tire combo has been upgraded to the 18" and 19" sized C7 replica wheels, with the proper C5 offset. Slotted and drilled rotors plus painted calipers round out the rolling stock. Lighting is much improved with the addition of Vette Lights products handling everything but headlight duties, which are handled by the latest "round sleepy eye" headlight kit.

Moving inside, the upgrades include a push button/remote start system, in between the Revesol Hydro dipped Carbon Fiber sport steering wheel and the Alpine double din touch screen head unit with Apple Car Play. Further sound improvements include upgraded speakers and a 10" sub in the back. It's a simple system that sounds great, and since he had Mike's Hotrod Interiors & Upholstery redo the seats, you'll listen in comfort. Additional plans call for replacing the remaining tan interior pieces with black.

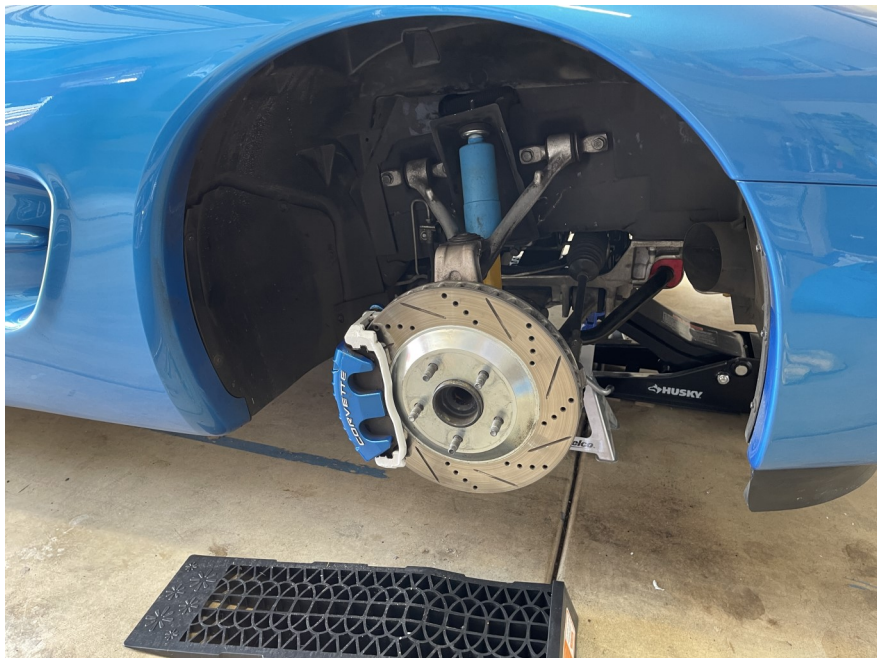
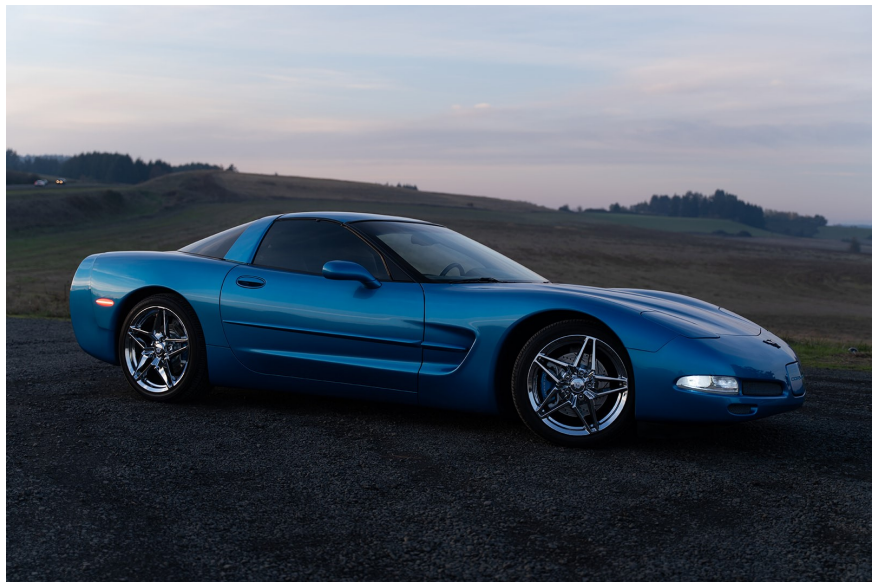
When it comes to suspension, Isaac had already installed Energy Suspension Polyurethane bushings in the front and rear sway bars, and in February had Dave Powers install the same bushings in the front and rear control arms, plus Mevotech ball joints front and rear, Mevotech wheel hubs at all four corners, and remove the leaf springs to install a set of Silver's Neomax coil overs rated at 12k/10k. I've raced against coil over cars, but have never driven one. I've asked Isaac to write up his impressions after he's had a month or so to break in the system. Isaac?

Kai Mana is my favorite kind of car. She's pretty, comfortable, and fast, but most importantly she has a great backstory and is loved by her owners. Last August, I wrote an article titled "When is a car more than a car..." Kai Mana is much more than just a car.

Keep driving, Kent (pics next page)

***Disclaimer***

*C5 corner is based on my experience with my own car for over 12 years and 120,000 miles and counting. The length of each months column prevents me from going into as much detail as needed, so consider these episodes as simply an overview of what I've done. I will include average prices and names of places to get parts, but you should do your own research before attempting the changes I suggest. Your mileage may vary as they say, and not all recommendations I will make will work for everyone's style of driving. If you have any questions or need any help feel free to contact me. Modify at your own risk, and have fun.*



# 2024-25 Standing Committees

## Carousel III Glass on the Grass Car Show for 2025

**Kelly Smothers (Chair)**

Andrea Smothers, Shane & Andrea Massey, Joe & Pat Peters, Wayne & Janet Kreger, Julie Hughes, Dave Schwerdt, Dru & Gary Hill, Al Manrubia, Dana Malby, Tom Paddock, Nick & Martie Valenzuela, Larry & Cathie Raaf, Steve Sims, Buzz Blogg, Chris Roethlin, and organizer Extraordinaire Kent Muhle.

### **Budget**

**Brent Wilson (Chair)**

### **Activities**

**Joe Peters (chair)**

Kelly Smothers, Joe & Pat Peters

### **Social Media Committee**

**Willamette Valley Corvette Association**  
P.O. Box 20576  
Keizer, Oregon 97307

**Place  
Stamp  
Here**

