



News Letter April 2026

Volume 51 Issue 4

Presidents Letter

President's Letter April 2026

Happy April WVCA members! First of all, I would like to thank my officers who stepped up, Sarah and Jamilah to take charge of the April Club meeting. That day even before I got up I had sharp shooting pains in my lower right side. I ended up going to the Emergency Room at the Salem Hospital. I tried to get in touch with my officers while I was there but the wifi was not available and the only message I got was get a clear view of the sky. That didn't work being inside the ER. I was panicking because I knew Al said he wasn't going to be at that night's meeting. Well after a day of tests and three times giving blood? I was told the tests revealed no abnormalities; geez you could have fooled me and to rest. As soon as I was outside the ER I got messages out to my officers. That's when Sarah and Jamilah stepped up to see that the meeting was taken care of that night.

So, my apologies to our members and the only thing that I have is to check out April activities which includes the Cherry Blossom Run, a fun time to learn about the area. The other thing is that life throws us curve balls all the time and can change in a split second. Enjoy life and your Corvettes but be safe!

Meeting Minutes

MEETING AGENDA

- 50/50 Drawing tickets being passed around
- Signup Sheet for **April 15th** Jacket night- Joe and Pat Peters Hosting; meet by 1830
- Prospective new member application handed out

1830: CALL TO ORDER: Jamallia (proxy for Dorothy)

- Recognize New Guests and Introductions: Jerry and Nikole Jennings - 1986 Blue Corvette Coupe
- Birthday Announcements **Jamallia**
 - **Martie Valenzuela 4/9 2017 GS Admiral Blue Roadster**
 - **Tom Paddock 4/10 2018 GS Admiral Blue Coupe**
 - **Gary Hill 4/16 2006 Yellow Roadster**
 - **Darrel Holmes 4/17 2016 Yellow Roadster (passed away last summer)**
 - **Shane Massey 4/21 2005 Z51 Red C6 Roadster**
 - **Jeff Penick 4/28 2008 Silver Z06**
 - **Don Christensen 4/29 2021 Shadow Grey Metallic Z51 HTC**
 - **Robert Crocker 4/29 2024 Torch Red Z06**

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Jamilia

- The minutes have been created by Sarah Anne and distributed to you through the Glass Sass. "Are there any corrections?" Motion: TJ Andersen || Second: Ed Kirasich
- When no (further) corrections are offered, "If there are no (further) corrections . . . (pause) . . . the minutes are approved as distributed/corrected."

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dana

- **CHK = \$1104.96 Savings = \$ 12949.41/ \$.54cents in interest.**
- **\$ 427.00 dollars in Petty Cash.**
- Deposits: **\$ 0 for**
- Expenses: **\$ 100.00 NW Vintage Car and Motorcycle Museum (membership to museum to hold meetings)**

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Jamilia

Any additional articles suggestions for Glass Sass

Write something, send photos, tech corner to be added - please send to Dorothy if you have any ideas.

VP REPORT: Sarah Anne (Proxy for Al)

April, May Car Show Information: and other relevant shows later in year for preregistration

May 9th-Cascade HS Car Show

Flyers available for car shows will be at front table

Any update on Christmas at Oregon Gardens and or Roths - hold for when Dorothy is back

Reviewed email of updates/events that Al sent out earlier today

COMMITTEES REPORTS:

- SACC - Joe Peters
- Drivers for MAG Auction still needed (5th-12th 8a-5p of May) - Fri and Sat is the Auction and need 20 drivers per day moving cars from building to Auction block and back; Sunday/Mon bring car to new drivers or to the people who will be putting them back on the trailers.
- Changing SACC name to "Mid Valley Auto Council"
- 18 Apr - Cherry Blossom Run - cards not sold until 0845/starts at 9a - approx. 66miles; maps given out at the start and usually an impromptu car show before they start; meet at the Old

Costco/New Harbor Freight; canned food drive is being done with this (drawing for basket if you bring canned food)-can bring non perishables as well that will go to the Food Share. We did close to 200lbs of food donations (1 ticket per person and not per item). Afterwards, heading to Heavenly Pie followed by a couple other locations for a fun day, ending at Heritage Park

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Jamilia - Any interest?**
 - Membership drive -WVCA Members 1st prize receives
 - Spoke about it last month; hand out business cards, bring to meetings or other events ; member at large sheet will notate who referred/recommended so we can keep record
 - New Logo Design Contest-1st prize receives
 - Spoke last month as it was something discussed previously
 - Should set a deadline so we get ideas in
 - If we agree as a club to change, after submissions, then we move forward - voted down last time it was tried
 - Motion by TJ Andersen to see raise of hands on who would be interested in a new logo; this is to see if the club is interested;
 - Second by Sarah Anne Olshefski
 - Interested in seeing options - 17 out of 24
 - Leave it as is - 0 members raised their hand
 - in order to entice the younger folks, seeing the new models, C7-C8, would be nice to help share out.
 - WVCA 60th Anniversary car show in 2028-Volunteers to make it happen or not?
 - Joe willing to help - 18mo to plan (below are things to think about)
 - Lock down date
 - Lock down DJ
 - Lock down venue -
 - Food Vender - they will want to have large group so it can be difficult to lock a vendor down as they prefer larger groups

FUTURE JACKET NIGHTS INFO

We need one more volunteer to host a jacket night this year either in July or September. If interested let Dorothy know!

- Gary Dental - July; will get details to Dorothy
- XXX - September no volunteer yet but we have time

Those that have volunteered please at least a month prior to hosting give Dorothy the location information and if cruising to the logistics for meeting up so a signup sheet can be prepared for the meeting before you are hosting the jacket night!

NEW BUSINESS:

Any?

Kelly/Andrea Smothers and Joe/Pat Peters - Tacoma Corvette club hosted an open house to share what they do, shows they have, raffles, and a great event. Something WVCA could look at doing in the future... great event to share what we all have, bring awareness, beginning of the season to share out what they are doing this year.

Jamilia - have we considered joining this and the other club to merge - from members it has not gone anywhere when trying in the past.

April jacket night will be hosted by Joe and Pat Peters on April 15th at the Olive Gardens at 1302 Lancaster DR NE Salem, Oregon. Pat and Joe's number is 503-580-3022. Sign-up sheet being passed around! Please be considerate if there are any changes or cancellations.

TECH TIME:

Tech time items or suggestions

TJ Andersen - C4 paint was beautiful after a booboo in 2024, but after pulling it out this year, there were some pain issues, and it is now back at PAD to correct under warranty. They stand by all work and are eager to correct. They are a bit of a drive but well worth the service.

- Sarah Anne - PADs body shop will even take courses to be certified for body work on Corvettes (did it for my c6)

Andrea Smothers - A8 trans - shutter - has v4 delete - decided the triple trans flush. It went pretty smoothly, researched, bought vacuum., replaced the filter, and took a while - 3 times with 5qts each time. Today it was done. The shutter is gone but now a new sound is coming from the car.

Corvette Trivia! 1 ticket for each question-

- **The only one-year-only body style was 1973, with rubber front and chrome rear bumpers**
 - Ed Kirasich
- **In 1982, the Corvette was the only year without a manual transmission option**
 - Jim Jacks

50/50 DRAWING: How much to the club _\$53_, how much to the winners _\$26_?

- Kelly Smothers
- Ed Kirasich

ADJOURNMENT: Jamilia at 720p

Meeting Minutes: Sarah Anne Olshefski

Monthly Articles:



Spring Has Sprung — Time to Wake Up Your Corvette!

Tech Tips with Kelly Smothers

For those of you who don't know me, I've been a Corvette owner for just over 12 years now. Somewhere along the way, what started as a love of a great car turned into a full-blown obsession — ask our garage. Over the next several months I'm planning to share some tech tips here in the *Glass Sass* that I hope will be useful in your own Corvette journey. Some of it you'll already know, some of it might be new, and some of it is just unsolicited advice from a guy who's made enough mistakes to have learned a few things.

First, Let's Talk About That Battery

If you caught any of our fall meetings, you've probably heard me preach about properly putting your Corvette to bed for the winter — battery tender, periodic starts, checking in on it regularly. There's a reason I harp on this.

This past winter, at least five fellow club members came to me with dead or dying batteries asking what to do. And I get it — life gets busy and it's easy to let the car sit. But here's the thing: a dead battery in a modern Corvette isn't just an inconvenience. Depending on your model year, a fully discharged battery can cause all kinds of headaches — from losing your radio presets and power seat memory positions, to triggering fault codes in the ECU, to causing issues with the active handling and magnetic ride control systems needing recalibration. On newer C7s and C8s, the electronics are sophisticated enough that a dead battery can mean an unexpected trip to the dealer before you ever turn a wheel. It's a lot of grief for something a \$30–\$50 battery tender could have prevented.

If you're in that boat right now, don't panic — but do get it sorted before you start your spring prep.

Okay, On to the Good Stuff

The days are getting longer, the rain is (occasionally) letting up, and it's time to bring your Corvette out of hibernation. Whether you're prepping for car shows, Cars & Coffee, a run to the coast, or a mountain cruise, here's a simple checklist to get your car road-ready for the season:

Battery & Electrical

If you used a tender all winter, great. If not, have your battery load-tested before trusting it. And I know what some of you are thinking — *“I checked it with a voltmeter and it reads 12.6 volts, it's fine!”* Not so

fast. A voltmeter only tells you the battery's surface charge — it doesn't tell you how the battery performs under the load of actually starting the car and running its systems. A battery can look perfectly healthy on a voltmeter and still fail you when it counts. A load test — which most auto parts stores like AutoZone or O'Reilly will do for free — actually stresses the battery and gives you a true picture of its health. Age matters here too. Most batteries have a lifespan of 3–5 years, and if you're not sure how old yours is, heck the sticker on the top or side of the battery — manufacturers stamp the month and year it was made. If you're pushing five years or beyond, consider replacing it proactively rather than waiting for it to leave you stranded at a Cars & Coffee somewhere. Also worth mentioning — if your Corvette came equipped with an AGM (Absorbent Glass Mat) battery, which many later model cars do, make sure any charger or tender you're using is AGM-compatible. Charging an AGM battery with a standard charger can actually damage it. When in doubt, check your owner's manual or ask someone who knows — I'm always happy to help.

Tires

Check your tire pressure (cold, before driving). Tires lose roughly 1 PSI for every 10°F drop in temperature, so winter storage may have left them low. Also look for any flat spotting or sidewall cracking if the car sat for several months.

While you're at it, take a look at your tire age — and yes, this is a thing even if the tread looks great. The general recommendation is to replace tires at six years regardless of how much tread remains, because rubber degrades over time and can become brittle or develop micro-cracks that aren't always visible to the naked eye. To find out how old your tires are, look for the DOT code on the sidewall. It's a string of letters and numbers, and the last four digits are what you want — the first two tell you the week of manufacture, and the last two tell you the year. So a tire stamped **1219** was made in the 12th week of 2019. If your tires are pushing or past that six-year mark, it might be time to have a conversation with your tire shop — even if they still look good on the outside.

Fluids

Do a quick walk-around check: engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, power steering (if applicable), and

washer fluid. If the oil is due, spring is a perfect time to change it.

Brakes

After a winter of sitting, it's common to have a little surface rust on the rotors — a few stops will usually take care of that. But do check your brake pads for wear and make sure the calipers aren't sticking.

Under the Hood Once-Over

Look for anything that might have made a home in your engine bay over the winter. This is no joke — rodents love a warm, quiet Corvette. Check for nesting materials, chewed wires, and yes, evidence of uninvited guests in your air filter and intake. For those of you with older Corvettes — and I say this as someone who owns two 1974s — please pay extra attention here. The wiring insulation and other materials used in those classic cars are essentially a five-star restaurant for mice. The insulation on older wiring harnesses can be made from materials that rodents find irresistible, and a mouse that's been snacking on your wiring all winter can turn a simple spring startup into a very expensive and frustrating repair. Give everything a thorough look, and if something doesn't look right — a wire that looks chewed, frayed, or just “off” — don't ignore it. Check belts and hoses for cracking as well, and make sure nothing looks out of place before you fire it up for the first time.

Rubber & Weather Stripping

Our wet Oregon winters can be tough on rubber seals. Check your door, window, and T-top or convertible top seals. A little rubber conditioner goes a long way.

Exterior Detail

Give her a good wash and inspect the paint for any chips or blemishes that may have appeared over the winter. A fresh coat of wax before show season is never a bad idea.

Take It Easy the First Few Miles

Let the car warm up properly before you get into it. Let the oil circulate, let the transmission warm up, and give the brakes a few gentle stops before you rely on them hard.

None of this is rocket science, but a little time spent now means fewer headaches when you're out enjoying

the car. As always, if you have questions or want a second opinion on something, feel free to track me down at a meeting — I'm always happy to help.

Here's to a great driving season ahead!

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Monthly Event Pictures March Jacket Night







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. We welcome all Corvette enthusiasts and prospective members to 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:

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