

THE
***KETTLE
KAPERS***

***The Official Publication of the
Kettle Moraine Corvette Club***



APRIL 2021



SPRING IS ON IT'S WAY...IT'S ABOUT TIME!

CORVETTE RACING PREPARES TO GO TO EUROPE



Corvette Racing will be fielding a single entry car into the FIA World Endurance Championship season-opener at Portimao on April 4th. Oliver Gavin and Antonio Garcia will have the driving duties in the #63 Corvette C8.R for the 8-hour race. They will be competing against the full-time WEC entries from Ferrari and Porsche who each have two cars entered for a total of five in the LMGTE Pro class.

This is the first time that Gavin and Garcia have shared the same car for Corvette Racing. It also marks the return of Gavin to Corvette Racing after he “stepped back” from the team at the end of 2020 to drive a Lexus RC F GT3 at the Daytona 24 hours.

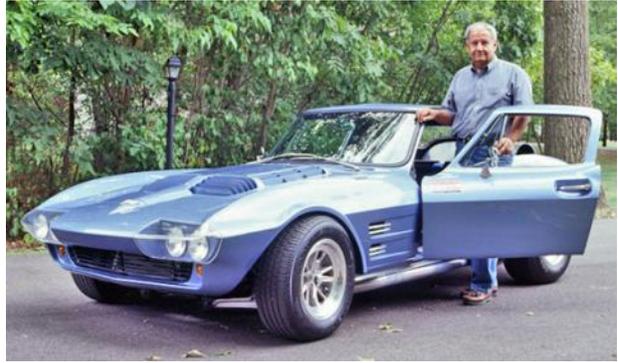
This will be only the 2nd time that the C8.R has competed in the WEC. Last year the team entered a single car in the Lone Star Le Mans at COTA in February 2020 with Jan Magnussen and Mike Rockenfeller. The team was forced to cancel its trip to the 24 Hours of Le Mans after 20 consecutive appearances due to schedule changes and COVID quarantines for international travel.

Corvette Racing is also eyeing the 6-Hour race at Spa-Francorchamps on May 1st as the team works to complete its prerequisite entries in two WEC races ahead of June’s 24 Hours of Le Mans, which is also on the WEC schedule.

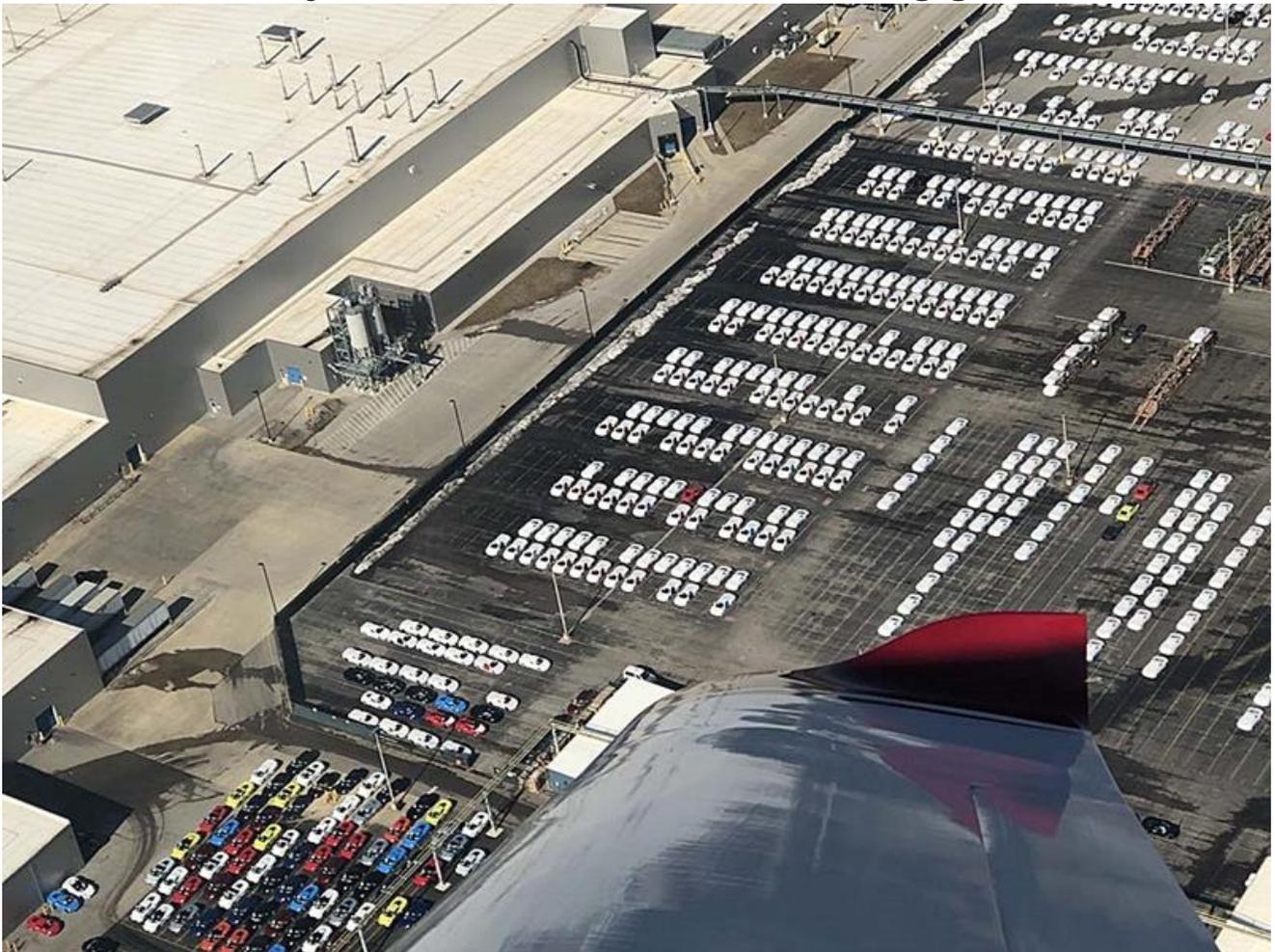
Portimao is a city in Portugal that is home to the Circuit Algarve, a 4.653 km (2.891 miles) race track with 15 turns. Prologue, the WEC’s official pre-season test will be held at the track on March 30-31st. Corvette Racing had its WEC-spec #63 Corvette C8.R down at Sebring in recent days as it prepares for Portimao.

FROM THE EDITOR:

By David Modra



Recent Flyover of Corvette Plant, Bowling green, KY.



Although production has been temporary shutdown due to some lack of parts, there still seems to be plenty of Corvettes waiting to be delivered. The white Corvettes are wrapped in their shipping protection and are awaiting transport pickup. The multi-colored Corvettes are still waiting to be wrapped.

FREE PARKING IN THE KMCC CORVETTE CORRAL FOR FUTURE EVENTS

*Corral is managed on Saturdays
and Sundays of the following dates*



Let KMCC watch your Corvette while you watch the races!

- JUNE 4th - 6th Weathertech June Sprints with
Chicago Region SCCA**
- JUNE 17th - 20th NTT IndyCar Series, REV Group
Grand Prix presented by AMR**
- JULY 1st - 4th NASCAR Cup Series, Infinity Series,
And Trans Am Races**
- JULY 15th - 18th Weathertech International Challenge
w/ Brian Redman**
- AUGUST 5th - 8th IMSA Sports Car Weekend**



SHORTAGE OF TIRES FOR C7 GS, Z06, ZR1

The new mid-engine Stingray isn't the only Corvette-related product in short supply.

According to [GM Authority](#), the worldwide pandemic has led to a shortage of replacement rear tires for widebody versions of the C7, including the Grand Sport, Z06, and ZR1.

"The issues are related to our spring shutdowns and higher than expected demand in the fall," a spokesperson for one tiremaker, Continental Tire, told *GM Authority* in a statement.

Tire manufacturers lost precious production time last spring because of coronavirus shutdowns, and in the months since being able to resume production, they've understandably focused their attention on replenishing supplies of their best sellers.

That means niche tires such as the 335/25/20 rears for the relatively low numbers needed for C7 upgrade variants are hard, if not impossible, to find right now. The 285/30/20 rear tires for the base Stingray aren't affected, fortunately.

We were able to locate some Michelin Pilot Super Sport ZP rears for a whopping \$552.53 each through a search on one national retailer's website, but the tires apparently wouldn't be delivered until March 30.

GM Authority says it has been told production of the larger rear tires could resume production by mid-March, so that would seem to mesh with our findings, too.

In the meantime, Grand Sport, Z06, and ZR1 owners, go easy on those burnouts! Stingray owners, though, have at it!

GM INCREASES 2021 CORVETTE BASE PRICES

The MSRP of the 2021 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray coupe and convertible at all trim levels will increase by \$1,000 beginning March 1. Customers who have event code 1100 sold orders and beyond by March 2 will not be impacted by the price increase on the 2021 Corvette Stingray. We monitor and adjust pricing on all our products regularly, and we're confident the Corvette remains a winning formula of performance. The pricing increase will be added to the starting MSRP for each trim group. The new prices will be:

2021 Corvette Coupe MSRP

Previous MSRP shown in parentheses

- 1LT - \$60,995 (\$59,995)
- 2LT - \$68,295 (\$67,295)
- 3LT - \$72,945 (\$71,945)

2021 Corvette Convertible MSRP

- 1LT - \$68,495 (\$67,495)
- 2LT - \$75,295 (\$74,295)
- 3LT - \$79,945 (\$78,845)

Ultimate Trivia Challenge Is Back

1) Elvis Presley was seen in the title sequence of one of his films driving a red Stingray Special, (at a time when it was fitted with a 427 with four Webers visible through a clear bubble air scoop). What was the movie?

- A) "Spinout" B) "Clambake" C) "Speedway"**
D) "Viva Las Vegas"

(answer on next page)

2021 KMCC Calendar At A Glance

APR: Town and Country Golf Course 7:30 PM **Wed. the 7th**
W 1943 County Road J, Sheboygan, WI **masks are required**

APR: Altona Supper Club - Spring Brunch 11:30 AM **Sunday the 25th**
Hwy 57 on North end of New Holstein See flyer this issue
Contact Herb @ 920-849-2717 for reservations

NOTE: At this point, the club events will be determined by the spread or lack of spread of the virus within the state. Adjustments may have to be made accordingly. We will try to keep everyone advised to any changes as soon as possible.

In case of inclement weather: Members will be notified by email no later than 5:30 pm should a membership meeting be cancelled due to weather or other reasons.

Tire Shortage Follow-Up

Michelin is now producing another All-Season tire for Corvettes. It's call the Pilot Sport A/S 4 and is currently available for the C8 model. It provides a much softer ride, more flexible sidewall and better traction. It has something called "rim protection" whatever that is. The problem is that it will not be available in C7 sizes until later this spring, again, due to production limitations because of the COVID virus. If you are interested in this tire, please keep an eye out for it at your local dealer or at TireRack.

Corvette Trivia Answers:

- 1) The movie was "Clambake" in 1967.

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NEW MEMBERS

KMCC would like to give a warm welcome to our new members:

Bob and Kathy Zahn, Gillett, WI. Elkhart Lake Blue C8

ENJOY THE RIDE AND "SAVE THE WAVE"

We are now at 121 members

CURRENT BOARD MEMBER EMAILS

President	marylou@roadamerica.com
Vice President	hopshop@comcast.com
Secretary	bndokeefe@att.net
Treasurer	rvette@charter.net
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KMCC STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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50 / 50 Raffle Chair: John Suchocki

Club Historian: Robert Wood

August IMSA Activities: John Rische

PLEASE NOTE: *Kettle Kapers* is a monthly publication of the Kettle Moraine Corvette Club. Contents of *Kettle Kapers* is based on source material believed to be accurate. No legal responsibility for completeness is assumed, however, **all articles, letters, or material must be submitted for publication by the 15th of each month.** Material submitted after that date will be on a space available basis as time permits. Thank you for your consideration. Please send all correspondence to: grdsp63@mchsi.com.

CORVETTE RACING AT THE 12 HOURS OF SEBRING

Antonio Garcia put [Corvette Racing](#) on the GT Le Mans (GTLM) pole position Friday for the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring. Garcia, driving the No. 3 Mobil 1/SiriusXM Chevrolet Corvette C8.R, set a GTLM record around the 3.74-mile, 17-turn circuit for Saturday's race in central Florida. He was a sliver quicker – by just 0.034 seconds – than teammate Tommy Milner in the No. 4 Corvette.



The 12 hours didn't start out as planned due to a lane change by the #4 Corvette before crossing the start line. A drive-through penalty was issued and relegated the #4 to last place in the GTLM category.

As time went on, the #4 Corvette continued to slip farther back due to a number of different circumstances; however, the #3 was in good shape.

After 11 hours and 53 minutes, things changed. Antonio Garcia, in the #3 Corvette C8R was leading and headed to a win when the #25 BMW, running second, tagged his right rear quarter panel and spun him around. During this scuffle, the #79 Porsche 911-RS, a private competitor, was able to pass both the Corvette and the BMW and continue on for the win. Apparently, IMSA did not see the BMW as creating a penalty, so they ended up second. The #3 Corvette ended up in 4th place.

THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE *GOLDEN RAY*

In September 2019, the *Golden Ray* departed the Port of Brunswick, Georgia, with a haul of about **4200** vehicles and soon developed a catastrophic list. The floating parking garage, with space for up to 7742 vehicles, tipped onto its side and beached itself just off the St. Simons Island shoreline. Nineteen months later, the *Golden Ray's* journey is finally nearing its end.



Crews are now salvaging the ship and its contents by erecting a huge seaworthy derrick and using a 80 lb. per link chain to saw back and forth through various sections of the ship. The first section recovered is shown below. Look closely and you can see all of the cars still inside each level. The cause is thought to be the incorrect loading of 336 Kia Tellurides in Port Brunswick. The loading-plan diagram shows that most of the vehicles were Ram pickups, GM crossovers, and Mercedes SUVs bound for the Middle East. Check out more pictures by searching on “Golden Ray”.



Save Money and Stop Buying Premium Gasoline

Modern Engines Make Allowances for Lower Octane

A quick way to save 20 to 40 (or as much as 80) cents per gallon at the gas station is to stop pumping premium gasoline and switch to regular grade. But how will you know if the switch is safe or if it will damage the engine in your vehicle?

The key for drivers is to know whether premium gas is merely recommended for their car or if it's required. In today's automobiles, advances in engine technology mean that even if the owner's manual recommends premium gasoline, the car will typically run on regular without issue and won't damage the engine in any way. The car's performance might suffer only slightly: It might be a half-second slower from 0 to 60 mph, for instance. But the average driver isn't likely to notice this drop-off.

In the old days, engines could not deal with fuels of varying octane ratings. Using the wrong fuel would make the engine knock and possibly damage internal engine components. But today, engine control systems can compensate for low octane by adjusting ignition timing to avoid knocking. This sophisticated electronic capability effectively tunes engines on the fly and gives drivers more flexibility in the grade of fuel that they can use safely.

The performance loss, however, is something you will only notice if you have a heavy foot and accelerate rapidly from a dead stop or when you change lanes at highway speeds. But if you accelerate moderately, the loss of power may not be noticeable whether you use premium or regular-grade fuel.

Modern engines not only don't need lead but have sophisticated antiknock technologies that sense a fuel's octane rating and adjust their ignition timing to prevent damage.

A vehicle's owner's manual specifies the type of fuel required for proper performance, although it might also say that premium fuel is "recommended." When premium fuel is merely recommended, there is no reason to use it instead of regular, according to Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports' director of auto testing.

In its own experiments, Consumer Reports found that vehicles that "recommended" premium did not increase acceleration or fuel economy compared with regular gasoline.

Save Money (continued)

If you burn premium because you think it makes the engine peppier, that is probably psychological: “I’m paying more for gasoline, so I must be getting more.” Some motorists claim they get better fuel economy with premium, but some of that could be due to favorable weather conditions (such as warm weather instead of cold) or other factors.

Drivers used to buy a tank of premium gas every once in a while to clean their engines. Years ago, premium gas contained more detergents and other additives to stop carbon deposits. But experts say that now, because of government regulations since the 1990’s aimed at cutting emissions, most major brands of gasoline have plenty of additives in all grades to both protect engines and cut pollution. Gas brands such as BP, Shell, Amoco, Mobil, and Kwik Trip are all designated as Top Tier gasolines. When a gas station says it sells Top Tier fuel, it must add the detergent package to all grades of gasoline, even the cheap stuff.

The most important thing is that many of the nation’s giants of gas discounting sell Top Tier gasoline, including Costco and QuikTrip. There are many who decide to buy gas only at major oil company stations believing their gas to be superior. However, you can still have the best gas at the lowest prices.

BOTTOM LINE: Since GM “recommends” premium gas for most of the C5, C6, and C7 models, it is not “required”, so you may want to check out using regular in the future. However, for ZO6 and ZR1 and all 2019 models, as well as the new C8, GM has changed the use of premium to “required” stating 93 or higher octane.

Of course, this doesn’t apply to older Corvettes. They don’t have the ability to adjust the timing to compensate for a lesser octane gasoline, so continue to use what you’re engine is comfortable with. Keep in mind, that if you hear any “knocking”, go back to the mid-grade or premium you were using.

ANOTHER C8 FALLS OFF OF THE LIFT



And it looks like this one has some serious damage.





2021 KMCC SPRING FAMILY BRUNCH

Sunday April 25, 2021

Location: Altona Supper Club, New Holstein (Hwy 57 on north end of New Holstein)

Buffet price is \$10.99 for adults, \$5.99 for age 4-9

Children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, prospective members all are invited.

Table reservations are at 11:30, arrive as early as 10:30 if you want a Bloody Mary or cocktail before your brunch.

We will have tables reserved so I will need to call in a number. **To make a reservation contact Herb at 920-849-2717 or hobuhl@yahoo.com by April 23rd.**

Remember Honeymoon Acres is right next door, so you may want to plan to stroll through the green houses and see and smell plants and beautiful flowers after your brunch.

The Kettle Kapers is the monthly publication of the Kettle Moraine Corvette Club, LTD. General correspondence to the K.M.C.C. may be directed to Post Office Box 621, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0621. Visit us online at www.kmccwi.org. Thanks to Joe Vopal for creation and maintenance of the KMCC club website.

Any news or events for *The Kettle Kapers* should be directed to the newsletter editor: David Modra at grdsp63@mchsi.com by the 15th of each month for inclusion. Thanks to Road America for their support.

