

THE
***KETTLE
KAPERS***

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



JUNE 2020

Corvette Racing Withdraws from the 24 Hours of Le Mans



Corvette Racing confirmed this past weekend to the ACO that it will be withdrawing from this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans amid ongoing concerns over the Coronavirus pandemic. The decision will likely break a 20-year streak of consecutive appearances by the factory Corvette team at Le Mans. Corvette Racing follows the CORE Autosport's Porsche 911 RSRs who also have withdrawn from Le Mans.

The withdrawals of Corvette and Porsche brings down the total entries for GTE-Pro to seven.

Milwaukee Area Corvette Clubs' Annual Chili-Cook-off

It all began one fall evening back in 1992 when a club member (who had recently transferred from a corvette club in Minnesota) asked the Social chairman of Badger State Vettes when the annual Chili Cook-off was scheduled. It seemed that Chili Cook-offs were a common thing among the corvette clubs in Minnesota where he was from.



So began Milwaukee's tradition of holding an annual Chili Cook-off Competition among the area's corvette clubs, a tradition which has been held annually every year since 1993.

It began slowly in '93 with Badger State Vettes challenging Wisconsin Corvette Club to the first annual Chili Cook-off and the tradition blossomed from there. What started as a competition between two clubs opened up to include seven local clubs in the southeastern Wisconsin area before settling down to the five clubs that currently participate. While the first few competitions were a Chili only affair it soon expanded to include not only Chili but also a Salsa Competition and a Chocolate bake off as well. The current clubs contending for Chili Master of Southeastern Wisconsin are Badger State Vettes (BSV), Brew City Corvette Club (BCC), Muskego Corvette Club (MCC), Ozaukee Corvette Club (OCC) and Wisconsin Corvette Club (WCC).



This event is always held in the dead of winter, usually February or March and is a wonderful way to forget about the frigidly cold weather and the fact that your poor neglected corvette is cocooned away in its annual winter hibernation. Its also a wonderful social event where the local clubs gather together for an evening of camaraderie and partying. Judging is done via a peoples choice where everyone gets to vote for their favorite Chili, Salsa and Chocolate. Of course the real fun of the event is that you get to sample all the wonderful entries before voting so everyone gets a hearty and satisfying meal during the evening.

This year one hundred and five people attended the Cook-Off which was held March 1st 2020. There were thirty different Chili's to taste, fourteen Chocolates to savor and eight different Salsas to keep you warm.

To wash all this goodness down the Delafield Brewhaus, where the contest was held, dispensed soda, adult beverages and their own special brand of freshly brewed beers.



This years contest winners were:

For Chili: Lisa Burkhart from the Wisconsin Corvette Club

For Salsa: Steve & Chris Miles from Badger State Vettes

For Chocolate: Brandy Muex from Brew City Corvette Club

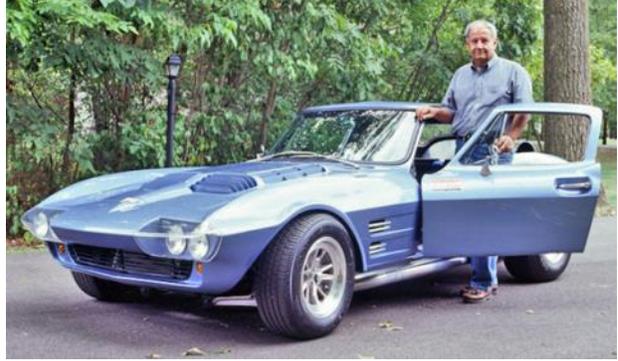
Along with the tasting a silent auction as well as a 50:50 raffle were held to raise money for the designated charity. Each participating club also donates \$50 to get the pot started.

Traditionally each year the club hosting the Cook-Off is rotated among the participating clubs so that every club gets a chance to host the event. The club hosting the event has the honor of selecting the charity to which all proceeds raised are donated. This year the Cook-Off was hosted by Badger State Vettes at the Delafield Brewhaus and the charity chosen was the Wisconsin Honor Flight which charts planes and escorts veterans on special trips to Washington DC. Between the silent auction, club donations, 50:50 raffles and donations by several generous individuals a total of \$2530 was raised for the Wisconsin Honor Flight, enough to send four veterans on trips to Washington DC.

And as always, a good time was had by all.

FROM THE EDITOR:

By David Modra



If you're like me, this "shelter-in-place" order was getting a little old. However, I'm still not planning to pretend that things are getting back to normal.

As if this date I still haven't had the Corvette out and haven't put the full insurance coverage on it. Of course the weather hasn't helped.

A number of the clubs in my area have started to schedule "cruise" events. Note that these are different than the normal "cruise-in" event.

Usually on a Sunday afternoon, weather permitting, the club schedules a meeting place for those people that want to get their cars out. People meet at a certain time, no one gets out of their cars, or if they do, social distancing is practiced.

Then the group just proceeds to cruise through some of the quiet neighborhoods or less travelled roads. One recent cruise was to highlight a 5 year old's birthday. Since his party was cancelled, the club member asked if people could drive past his house with their classic cars in a birthday salute. He was amazed to say the least! Members just blew their horns, waved, and maybe chirped the tires a little. The club even has a couple of the huge interstate wreckers join in the parade.

This may be the extent of how this Summer is going to happen for the car culture. STAY SAFE! (See the following story.)

Cops Arrest Angry “KAREN” for Blocking Racecar Birthday Parade

Here’s a bunch of car guys getting together to do a Birthday Parade past a 10-year-old boy’s house. These kinds of parades have been a big hit during the Coronavirus lockdowns and how cool is it to be a 10-year-old and have all these fantastic cars driving by your house on your birthday!

There were some great cars in attendance as well! Corvettes, Mustangs, Challengers, and Chargers made up the majority of the parade. The statement was: *We got a bunch of race cars together to go give one of our friend’s sons a birthday car parade and most people were loving it except for this KAREN. She took it upon herself to block off the road and call the cops but she didn’t realize the cops would side with us! This was awesome and Happy Birthday Gavin!*



A further update: *The neighborhood asked us to come back for a Round 2 but we didn’t expect the huge amount of people that wanted to watch us roll through. The crowds looked like they had a good time and we got a good update on Karen 2 and her husband. I can’t believe they put their house up for sale!! Enjoy!* (There was no mention of where this took place.)

Per Corvetteblogger.com

NOTES

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant was closed at the end of the day on March 20th and it’s pretty safe to assume that the plant will be about two months behind their previous targets. We also know that Convertible production was slated to start on April 6th. We don’t have confirmation on when the convertibles will restart, but our GUESS based on the now, May 25th restart, is that 2020 Convertibles will start down the assembly line sometime in mid to late June.

Courtesy of C8 Facebook Group

2020 KMCC 3 Month Calendar At A Glance

- June:** City Limits Bar and Banquet 7:30 PM **Wed. the 3rd**
3627 County Rd C R, Manitowoc **IT'S A GO!**
Cocktails, Dinner, and Meeting \$10/person **See Flyer**
- July:** KMCC Picnic and Meeting 5:30 Drinks, **Wed. the 8th**
Memorial Park, 406 N River Pkwy, Howards Grove, WI
Bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share with members
- Terrace Place Assisted Living Center 4 - 7 PM, **Wed. the 22nd**
1231 Eisner Avenue, Sheboygan, WI.
CAR SHOW - Last year they even provided dinner for participants
- Aug:** Tom's Toy Box (Outbuilding) - 5:30 PM **Wed. The 5th**
14620 County Road F, Valders, WI
Bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share with members

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.

Hormel made their first batch of SPAM in 1937. The company has just announced that due to hoarding by consumers, they are going to make a second batch.

For the latest stories, pictures, and club doings, check out the KMCC website by clicking on the following link:

[KMCC WEBSITE](#)

CLUB NEWS

Dear KMCC Members,

The JUNE 3rd Membership meeting is being held. See Flyer on the next page.

The Club is still in need of volunteers for the Plymouth Fairgrounds.

Those dates are as follows at this time:

Friday, May 29th **CANCELLED, Friday, June 26, and Friday, August 14**

Please contact Mary Lou to sign up. Since the first date was cancelled, your support is truly needed to help fund club activities.

\$5.00 June Sprints tickets will be available by **EMAIL PRE-ORDER to marylou@roadamerica.com only and brought to the June 3rd meeting.**

Order what you need in advance – no extras will be available at the meeting. Cash or check made out to Mary Lou Haen only.

Order Deadline is June 1st. (June Sprints dates are 6/12 – 6/14)

Thank you,

Above all, stay safe and stay well my friends! We will get through this together.

June Meeting and Meal



Wednesday June 3, 2020

City Limits Bar and Banquet Hall
3627 County Road CR
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Social Hour Begins at 5:15 p.m. - Cash Bar



Meal Begins at 6:15 p.m.



Meeting Begins at 7:30 p.m.



Menu:

Pizza - pepperoni, sausage, vegetable or supreme

Broasted Chicken

Potato Wedges

Cole Slaw

Cost is \$10.00 per person, includes Tip

City Limits will have adequate seating spaced for social distancing. The bar and hall are huge so we should be comfortable to spread out as needed. We will not serve ourselves. The food will be handed out by one of their servers per health department regulations. It is still all you can eat. Just tell the server your food selection, she will dish it up for you. Kind of like the cafeteria at school.

Things You May Not Know About the Chevrolet Corvette



THE SHRINERS HAD A FLEET OF THEM

Back in 1957, members of the Tangier Shrine of Omaha, Nebraska, got the bright idea of forming a “precision driving team” and arranged a special order of 13 Corvettes, which they drove in parades and other events nationwide. The Tangier Shrine Corvette Patrol was such a hit that the members decided to buy a new fleet of cars the following year ... and the next ... and the next ... finally disbanding in 1981. Perhaps the most notable year was 1962, when the patrol cars were painted purple (the official name of the hue, developed for Cadillac, was Royal Heather Amethyst).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



**I'm thinking that the wheels are worth twice as much as the car!
Why would someone do this? Because they can!**

Black, White, and Gray Are the Most Popular Car Colors in the U.S.

What color is your car? Personally, my vehicles tend to fall somewhere on the spectrum from black to silver, but I am always—at least in theory—down for brighter colors.

According to CarMax, the largest used car retailer in the U.S., black was the best-selling car color last year, accounting for 22.25 percent of sales, followed closely by white at 19.34 percent of sales, gray (17.63 percent), and silver (14.64 percent).

A quick look around most cities from L.A. to NYC will reveal no shortage of cars in those basic hues. The retailer also reports the top color choice for Californians is gray, which is surprising to me for the Golden State, but gray car paint does help hide dirt extremely well. The first hint of any real color on the CarMax list is blue, which snags the number-five spot nationally with 9.62 percent of sales—where it is nearly tied with red at 9.56 percent.

2020 Corvette C8 vs. Corvette C7: Interior Space Comparison

Prior to the debut of the all-new 2020 Corvette C8, various reporters posted that the new mid-engine layout could hurt overall passenger room and cargo space, at least when compared to the outgoing front-engine Chevrolet Corvette C7. Well, the C8 has touched down and it's time to see if they were right, so we dug into the GM spec sheets to find out.

Listed below are the dimensions for the interior and cargo areas for both the 2020 [Corvette](#) C8 and previous-generation Corvette C7.

2020 Corvette C8 vs. Corvette C7: Interior Space Dimension	Corvette C7	Corvette C8	+/- Corvette C8
Headroom (in. / mm):	38 / 962	38 / 962	Equal
Legroom (in. / mm):	43 / 1092	42.8 / 1086	- 0.2 / -6
Shoulder Room (in. / mm):	55 / 1397	54.2 / 1381	- 0.8 / -16
Hip Room (in. / mm):	54 / 1371	52 / 1321	- 2 / -50
Coupe Cargo Volume (cu. ft. / L):	15 / 425	12.6 / 356.8	- 2.4 / 68.2
Convertible Cargo Volume (cu. ft. / L):	10 / 283	TBA	-

Looking over the numbers reveals some interesting things. Yes, the [2020 Corvette](#) C8 has less interior room and cargo space when compared to the front-engine C7, but the differences are not significant. Clearly, [GM](#) clearly did a fantastic job packaging the C8, with the mid-engine car having only minimal losses in both areas.

The biggest loss is in cargo space, which makes a lot of sense given the mid-engine 2020 Corvette C8 splits its trunk area into two separate spaces, including one in front of the cabin (also called a front trunk, or “frunk” for short), and one behind the engine.

This is obviously a big change compared to the Corvette C7's sizable rear trunk accessed via a large hatch-like door. Meanwhile, the C8 will still accommodate the removable roof panel in the rear trunk area.

The rest of the 2020 Corvette C8's interior dimensions aren't far from those of the C7. Hip room is down two inches, but shoulder room is only off by 0.8 inches, while legroom is down 0.2 inches. Headroom is identical between the two generations of the legendary American sports scar.



It's certainly happy to see relatively spacious accommodations inside the 2020 Corvette. After all, the nameplate has traditionally been a Grand Tourer-type of vehicle, offering comfort *and* speed wrapped into a single stylish package that can be driven to any occasion. Luckily, buyers still get loads of interior room with the C8, even with the naturally aspirated 6.2L LT2 V8 engine mounted just behind the cabin.

Article Courtesy of GM Authority

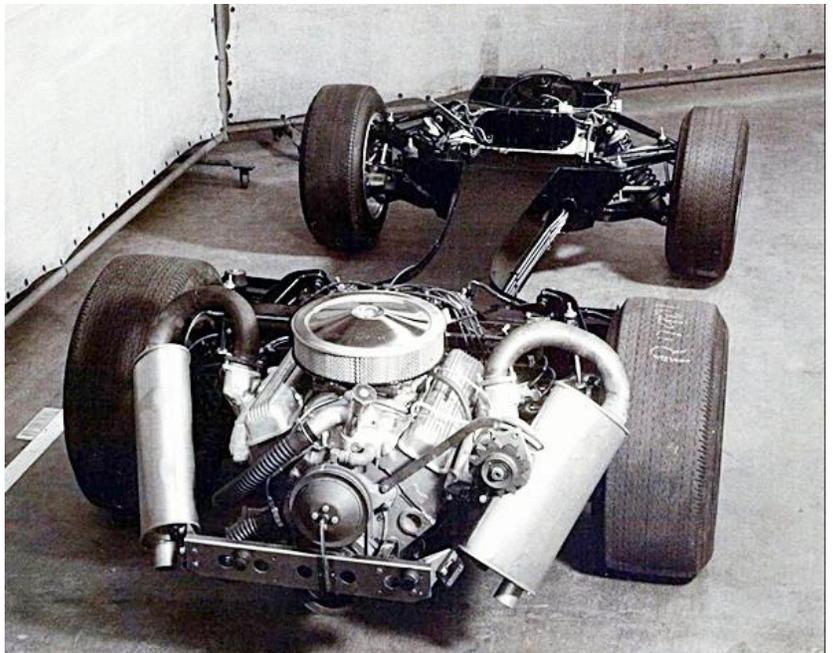
Chevy's REAR engine XP-819



Back in '65-'66, GM commissioned a REAR engine Corvette prototype. This was not Duntov's idea, but an idea by Frank Mitchell, head of GM's R & D Division. To put it mildly, this car was a mess! It had a welded steel backbone type chassis which enclosed the fuel tank. The XP-819 powertrain joined a Chevy 327 with a two-speed automatic transaxle from the '61-'63 Pontiac Tempest. Because the engine was mounted backwards, a reverse-rotation marine version was used.

The seats were molded in place and had no adjustment. Instead, the steering wheel telescoped and the pedal position was power adjusted with a Cadillac seat motor. Style-wise, the XP-819 was a knockout. Performance-wise, it was a spinout! As Smokey Yunick (unofficial Chevy racing development engineer) said, that hard acceleration, "would wind up the front end like a Fordson tractor".

The car was put into storage and in '69 was sent to Yunick to destroy and dispose. He cut the car into three sections and got rid of the center part. The front and rear sat behind a paint booth until a parts sale at Yunick's shop in the late '70's allowed Steve Tate, a Chevy dealer to buy it.



Amazingly, the XP-819 had most of its original parts, including the engine, Pontiac transaxle, suspension, lift off roof, wheels and even the tires.

The restoration by Kevin Mackay's Corvette Repair in Valley Stream, NY took over 6500 manhours over a period of years. Mackay found a man in long Island who could rebuild the transaxle. He was 85 years old and took a break from retirement to do the work.



A new windshield had to be custom-made for the XP-819. The car was originally painted a standard 1963-1964 Corvette color, Silver Blue, and Mackay used this. New upholstery was custom-made, matched to 1965 Corvette bright blue vinyl.

The completed XP-819 made an impressive presence at the Amelia Island Concours earlier this year. "I'm so glad that car is finally back together," says Tom Hill, a retired GM production engineer who worked on the Corvette program from 1979 until 2014. He now manages the Rare Wheels collection. "The XP-819 was from a period when they were willing to try any idea. They did it and found out, OK that didn't work."

Hill also suggests that the mid-engine layout might have been challenging at the time. He says, "It took development of a more compact powertrain and transaxle. The technology was not there. They were dealing with limitations, like stamped steel. It would have ended up being a car that you could not get in and out of."



Thanks to dedicated enthusiasts, the XP-819 lives on a unique marker along the Corvette's long road to mid-engine production. It's amazing how these development cars survived. If Yonick had listened to GM, the XP-819 would have been gone forever.

Check out Hemmings.com for the complete story. It's truly interesting!

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NEW MEMBERS

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

David Cook of West Bend

**WE'RE HAPPY YOU COULD JOIN US!
ENJOY THE RIDE AND "SAVE THE WAVE"**

We are now at 127 members

WANT ADS

MCC members are encouraged to list Corvette or club items for sale without charge. Sales and ads are for members only!

AND ONE MORE WUHANTOON



HOW MUCH GAS TO KEEP IN YOUR TANK

Nothing is more annoying when you're cruising on a road trip or commuting to work and realize something urgent: you need gas. Between the time it takes to fill up, the cost of the gas, and just the general inconvenience, you might be wondering whether you can just cruise a little bit longer without stopping. Maybe not so much, according to experts who say there's actually an ideal amount of gas to keep in your tank, which is one of many ways you can help extend the life of your vehicle.

For starters, it's important to understand how your gas tank works. In your gas tank is a fuel pump, says Bill Evans, who's worked with cars for over 30 years and is now manager of J & E Auto Body in Clark, New Jersey. This pump runs from the gas tank to the motor, supplying fuel. As the pump runs, it heats up—but when it's submerged in gas, the fuel acts as a coolant to stop the pump from overheating. If you're running on less than a quarter tank of gas, the pump will overheat and end up failing sooner than it should. What's more, driving around on empty can cause condensation in the walls of your gas tank, diluting your fuel, and causing rust, according to Richard Reina, a product training director at CARiD.com. And engine rust and a broken fuel pump aren't a car problem you can fix yourself, like these.

You may still feel driving on empty gives you more fuel for your buck. But, in addition to increasing the potential of long term damage to your car, driving on empty actually hurts your gas mileage. "If you're driving around on empty, the fuel pump is going to start picking up everything on the bottom of the tank," Evans says. This includes sediment from dirty gas and tank condensation. Not only can this damage your fuel pump and motor, but it actually makes your gas mileage worse. "As long as you have a quarter tank of gas, your gas mileage is going to stay as optimal as it could," Evans said. "The filter isn't getting hot. The motor isn't working as hard. That all helps on your gas mileage. **If you're keeping a quarter a tank of gas or more in the car, you'll prolong the life of the fuel system parts.**"

So there you have it—maybe it's time to break your habit of using the last drops of the final gallon of fuel to roll to the gas station. And while you're at it, focus on breaking these other habits that are shortening the life of your car.

Article Courtesy of MSN.com

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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.

