

FAST TRACK



Corvettes West Club Newsletter Featuring America's Favorite Sports Car

VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2026

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**REMEMBERING
GORDIE
WOO**



Happy
NEW YEAR!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dan Flanigan

2024 ZO6



“JANUARY 2026”

Well here we are going into 2026 which I hope will be a better year than 2025. Unfortunately we lost four CW members this year. Joann MacKewen, one of our “love birds”, Barbara Renna, who was always ready to jump in to help where needed, Danny Arant, who loved helping with Homecomings and going to Car Shows, and in December, Gordie Woo, a former CW Sergeant at Arms who went to be with the Lord. Gordie spent many, many months on dialysis, which he had to do 8 hours every day at home while waiting for a kidney transplant. Well his body finally gave up after all of those tough months and he passed Dec. 3rd of a heart attack.

His wife Joanna said there was limited space at his service so she asked if George, John, Monty (& Jenni), and myself would attend his celebration of life. It seemed fitting for 4 CW presidents to make the drive to Long Beach to attend. Such a tough time to lose a loved one and our thoughts and prayers have been with all these families during 2025.

This was a very difficult year for these families. This was very hard to write as my words can't express how difficult the loss of these members is and not sure how good of a job I did.

To share some other tough news, that being, the Emersons and Blackledges both lost their beloved dogs this month after 17 great years. We have lost several dogs over the years and losing them is not easy as they are your kids.

Now to talk about some more positive news and that being the Christmas Party at the Elks. I think we all agree what a Great Place to have our Party and a big Thanks to Diana and Diane for making this happen.

Now I have to give a big Thank You to Cathy Flores for letting me win the bid for the Carousel as she knew I would have bid whatever it took to win! But she did make it clear that this won't happen again and if she wants something at our next Christmas Auction don't test her, and I won't! And speaking of the Auction, I want to Thank George for again helping me with the bidding and Vanna, I mean Monty, for dancing around the room showing everyone the items that were up for bid. I understand we had another successful auction that I think raised about \$2,600. Thanks again guys, for your help and next year we are going to get Monty a skirt so for sure he can be more like Vanna!

I want to again Thank all of you who stayed on as Board Members and Committee Chairpersons, and to Gene who will be the new Treasurer, Wade to be the new Events Coordinator, Kristi to be the new Secretary and Kathy Flores to stay on as Raffle.

Well that's all I have for this month and I want to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous 2026 and may all your New Year's Resolutions come true.

**Happy New Year,
Dan Flanigan, President**



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HELPING HANDS

Sharon MacGillivray909-864-7347

PHOTOGRAPHER

John Blackledge951-317-9346

CHAPLIN

Joan Redden951-776-0235



EVENTLY SPEAKING

Wade Hilliard

Hello Corvette West members, this is your newly appointed event coordinator. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve you. As we head into this new year I have many ideas for activities, that being said, I'd love to hear from you. Please contact me by text or email with your ideas.

Thank you

Wade Hilliard ~ (951) 312-9946

whill59210@gmail.com



Missing: Wade Hilliard

2026 Corvettes West - Executive Board

Several of our members have personally used them and have raved about their excellent service. Tires to your doors, at your home and your convenience.

Call Jesse
(951) 470-9364

*They Service Anywhere
in the Inland Empire and
The Low & High Desert*



Corvettes West
General meetings
are held the
first TUESDAY
of the month at 6pm
at Riverside Elks
Lodge #643
6166 Brockton Ave.
Riverside, 92506
Dinner 6:00 PM
Meeting 7:00 PM

Our Business meetings
are held on Monday
before the general
meeting via ZOOM.

Fast Track articles
are due by the 18th
of each month.

They may be hand
delivered to George Swift
or emailed to
corvettenews@gmail.com
Email is preferred

JANUARY

EVERLYN RIVERA	05
CATHY FLORES.....	08
SANDRA RICHMOND	09
DAVE MACKEWEN	11
STEVE MCKEE	14
JOANNA WOO	18
BUD TEDESCO.....	18
NICKIE LANE	23
WADE HILLIARD	25
FRANK CLARKE	30

RANDY REDDEN VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2020



Whelp, it appears that indeed I have become Vice President of Corvettes West, hence a little background information as to how I ended up here at this juncture in time.

My first recollection of a Corvette was in 1963, my freshman year of high school. I was in the car, with my Dad, traveling West on our neighborhood street toward Azusa avenue, low and behold a blue Corvette coupe had just turned on to North bound Azusa Ave from Francisquito Ave. I remarked to my Dad "I want to get one of those someday" he laughed and said "better get a good job".

Well a few years later, (much later) I purchased one, a 1964 Corvette Stingray Coupe, Saddle Tan, 327, 250hp, 2 speed power glide, in 1994. It was with that Corvette, which I still have, I met John Blackledge at

the Arlington Chili cook off and car show, who invited me to come to a meeting. Long story short, Joan and I eventually attended a meeting. It has now been over five years, and we have immensely enjoyed the club and its members, who have been nothing but friendly and gracious to both Joan and I.

Moving forward, I encourage everyone to continue to seek out potential new members, using the invite cards that have been distributed at the general meetings, if anyone would like some, please feel free to reach out to either myself or other Board members to obtain a few. I look forward to the coming year and the growth of Corvettes West.

Randy Redden
Vice President



10 Trivia Questions

10 Trivia Questions

Transmissions & Differentials Part 1

1 What transmissions was available for the 1953 & 1954 Corvette?

- ☐ 3 speed
- ☐ 4 speed
- ☐ Powerglide
- ☒ Powerglide & 3speed

2 What year was the 3 speed transmission standard on a Corvette?

- ☐ 1954
- ☒ 1955
- ☐ 1956
- ☐ 1957

3 What was the first year 4 speed transmission an option on a Corvette?

- ☐ 1955
- ☐ 1956
- ☒ 1957
- ☐ 1958

4 What was the first year the "positraction" rear end available on a Corvette?

- ☐ 1956
- ☒ 1957
- ☐ 1958
- ☐ 1959

5 What was the first year did the "Positraction" become standard on the Corvette?

- ☐ 1968
- ☐ 1969
- ☒ 1970
- ☐ 1971

6 What was the first year of the 3 speed Turbo Hydra-Matic transmission?

- ☐ 1966
- ☐ 1967
- ☐ 1968
- ☒ 1969

7 What was the first year of 4 speed Manuel Trans, Close ratio Heavy Duty (M22)?

- ☐ 1962
- ☐ 1963
- ☐ 1964
- ☒ 1965

8 What was the first year the Manuel trans was not available in California?

- ☐ 1974
- ☐ 1975
- ☒ 1976
- ☐ 1977

9 What year did Corvette not offer a Manuel Transmission?

- ☐ 1979
- ☐ 1980
- ☐ 1981
- ☒ 1982

10 First year for 4 speed Automatic transmission?

- ☐ 1980
- ☐ 1981
- ☒ 1982
- ☐ 1983

Did You Know...

One of rarest production engines
Chevy ever produced was the
427 Z11 V8 480-525 HP
estimated
Torque 525 ft lbs
Only 57 were ever built
only available in
1963 Chevy Impala

CW 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY

Tues. 6th	CW General Meeting @ Elks Lodge 6166 Brockton Ave, Riverside, CA Meeting @ 7pm Come early to eat
Every Sat	Cars N Coffee @ Harvest Church parking lot Riverside 6:30am to 10:00am
Fri. 9th	Tuxies Cruise night 6030 Magnolia Riverside 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Sun. 25th	Annual Awards Banquet at Victoria Club-Riverside @ 1pm. See Flyer in this Newsletter

FEBRUARY

Tues. 3rd	CW General Meeting @ Elks Lodge 6166 Brockton Ave, Riverside, CA Meeting @ 7pm Come early to eat
Every Sat	Cars N Coffee @ Harvest Church parking lot Riverside 6:30am to 10:00am
Fri. 13th	Tuxies Cruise night 6030 Magnolia Riverside 5:00pm to 8:00pm

MARCH

Tues. 3rd	CW General Meeting @ Elks Lodge 6166 Brockton Ave, Riverside, CA Meeting @ 7pm Come early to eat
Every Sat	Cars N Coffee @ Harvest Church parking lot Riverside 6:30am to 10:00am
Fri. 13th	Tuxies Cruise night 6030 Magnolia Riverside 5:00pm to 8:00pm

APRIL

Tues. 7th	CW General Meeting @ Elks Lodge 6166 Brockton Ave, Riverside, CA Meeting @ 7pm Come early to eat
Every Sat	Cars N Coffee @ Harvest Church parking lot Riverside 6:30am to 10:00am
Fri. 10th	Tuxies Cruise night 6030 Magnolia Riverside 5:00pm to 8:00pm

MAY

Tues. 5th	CW General Meeting @ Elks Lodge 6166 Brockton Ave, Riverside, CA Meeting @ 7pm Come early to eat
Every Sat	Cars N Coffee @ Harvest Church parking lot Riverside 6:30am to 10:00am
Fri. 8th	Tuxies Cruise night 6030 Magnolia Riverside 5:00pm to 8:00pm



BLOOD BANK CENTERS ARE LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

San BernardinoPhone: 909-885-6503

420 E. Hospitality Lane Suite A7 & A8

New HoursOpen Sunday-Saturday 7am-2pm
Except Tuesday 6am-1pm and Thursday 10:30-5:30pm

Ontario.....Phone: 909-987-3158

1959 East Fourth Street

New Hours.....Open Sunday, Tuesday-Friday 7am-2pm
Except Mondays 10:30-5:30pm

La Quinta.....Phone: 760-777-8844

79-215 Corporate Centre Drive

New HoursOpen Sunday-Saturday 7am-2pm
Except Wednesday 10:30-5:30pm

RiversidePhone: 951-687-2530

4006 Van Buren Blvd.

New Hours.....Open Sunday - Saturday 7am-2pm;
Except Thursdays 10:30-5:30pm

Victorville.....Phone: 760-843-9700

12520 Business Center Drive

New Hours.....Open Sunday - Saturday 7am-2pm;
Except Thursday 10:30-6:30pm

MurrietaPhone: 951-973-7777

40365 Murrieta Hot Springs Road, Suite 1

Rancho MiragePhone: 760-797-8496

42390 Bob Hope Dr., Suite 1B

New Hours.....Open Sunday & Monday 10:30-5:30pm;
Closed Tuesday & Thursday; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 7am-2pm

Hemet.....909-386-6803 EXT. 181

3377 W. Florida Ave.

New HoursOpen Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday 7am-2pm;
Except Monday Thursday 10:30-5:30pm; Closed Friday & Saturday

Over the past weekend, the Red Cross held three (3) Blood Drives and Life Stream held one (1) Blood Drive. Why so many Blood Drives? During the holiday season donors go on vacation and schools are out. But the need for whole blood continues. Life Steam needs 360 donations a day. Holidays always create a need not only for blood but also for platelets which are also in demand.

Have you donated recently? If the answer is no then please check the list of centers, find one closest to you, call and make an appointment and become a donating citizen. Blood Banks need lots of those to continue saving lives.

If you do not receive the local newspaper, check with your neighbor to see if they get it. Or you can visit your local library. What you are looking for is the Saturday, December 27th edition which has a

very good article about Blood Donation needs.

If you have a 15 year old, with your permission, they can also donate. The staff at donation centers are friendly and will answer any questions about donating.

Here's hoping that you and your family had an enjoyable holiday. Now go out and help someone in need by donating blood to save their lives. Happy New Year, and please make it a safe one!

Please make donating a priority in your life.

Bill Dodge

Save a Life - The life you save may be a loved one.



CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTOS



Corvettes West

AWARDS BANQUET 2026



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
1 PM

Victoria Club ~ 2521 Arroyo Drive, Riverside

\$50 PER PERSON

BUFFET STYLE DINNER
(DRESS ATTIRE: DRESSY CASUAL)
Collared Shirts & No Jeans

If you bring your own wine there will be a corking fee

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.....Pictures of Corvette & Couple and Socializing

1:30 PM.....Dinner

Please RSVP by January 19th ~ Diane Swift (951) 333-5363

SUPER BOWL PARTY **SUNDAY, FEB. 8 @2PM**

Invitation
Is limited
To
Club Members
Only



Bring
Your
Favorite
Side Dish

PARTY AT THE **FLANIGANS**

30838 La Solana Court, Redlands, CA 92373

Dan & Elaine Flanigan

Please RSVP 951-712-6953

(Also Let Us Know What Dish You Will Be Bringing)

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Stevan Wilkinson – Internet/Fleet Manager
909-557-2011 Call/Text
909-793-2681 Dealership
swilkinson@tombellchevy.com

TOM BELL
CHEVROLET

Tom Bell Corvettes:

Tom Bell Chevrolet is please to share that we have 7 new Corvette's and 1 pre-owned C7 on the ground now for sale that I will have the link and info listed below.

We also have **One - 2024 Camaro SS Convertible** with 5,250 miles on it. I am also back to my set schedule of Tuesday – Saturday to help any of our Corvette West friends and family. We are taking orders for the 2026's now except on the ZR1 and ZR1X.

We also have **3 1LT C8's** getting ready to get built in Riptide Blue, Seabring Orange, and Redmist metallic that are available if some one wants to claim it before it arrives.

Stevan Wilkinson

Internet/Fleet Manager

909-557-2011 Call/Text



TOM BELL
CHEVROLET

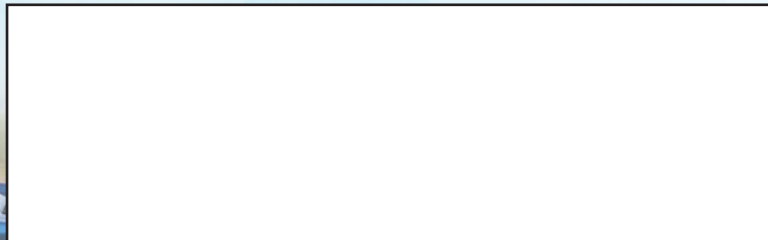
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