# CLUB CORVETTE OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

**VETTE GAZETTE** 

**April 2025** 



# **CLUB CORVETTE OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

www.ClubCorvettect.com P.O. Box 120236 East Haven, CT 06512

# CLUB CORVETTE OF CONNECTICUT Sponsor's Page













**Thank you for your continued Support!** 

## **CLUB CORVETTE OF CONNECTICUT**



### **2025 CLUB CORVETTE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICERS**

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE





Happy Easter to all our members, our family wishes you love, joy, and peace ... today, tomorrow, and always.

The Corvette season has finally arrived! March 14 was the first of many motorsport days, the opener was at Thompson Motor Speedway and Darryl DelGiudice was the ultimate host – as always, making sure that everyone was well taken care of and ready for a fun day of instructional driving. A beautiful spring day to be outside, and parade laps lead by Darryl for Club members, and Darry was kind enough to remind me 3 different times that there was a maximum speed limit for these laps, I think he was just making sure I behaved.



Two days later was the annual St Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven – the weather was less than perfect, but we still had 4 cars participating with Jim Gurn leading and Tony Ferranti finishing off our group. This is a HUGE parade that travels for almost 1 ½ miles with the streets lined with spectators and the whole crew from WTNH participating. As always, WTNH did a great job, they gave a history of our Club and all of the charities we have helped support over the years.

Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup> will be a very special day as Darryl hosts Corvettes for Tony at The Southington Drive In Theater. Tony Delano passed away last October and held a car show annually to support The Ronald McDonald House of New Haven. ALL the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle that evening will be donated to The Ronald McDonald House, we hope to make this one of the largest gatherings of car enthusiasts that the Drive In has ever seen – all makes and models are welcome so bring your favorite ride to help support a very worthy cause.

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop

Ríck

# **New Members**



Bob Sicuranza is a familiar face to Club Corvette Members. He is the Past President of For Corvettes Only, a member for 15 years. He and our illustrious President Rick Wasserback have made great strides bonding the 2 clubs.

Bob's interest in Corvettes began when he was drawn to Newington Auto Auctions near the Berlin Turnpike one Thursday night. This was where he found his first Corvette, a 1973 Coupe. He has owned 7 Corvettes, the latest a 2015 Torch Red Coupe Z 06. He loves hunting and tracking his Corvette. He has joined club member Darryl DelGuidice and friends at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park a couple of times.

Bob grew up in Newington CT and now lives in Old Lyme with his wife Paula. He has a son, Bob Jr and a Grandson Gage. He is a service technician in the automatic door industry working for Stanley and Assa Abloy for nearly 40 years, 24 of them in Maryland. His current territory includes upper western New York to the Canadian border

He built his own garage so he could have plenty of room to work on his cars and others.

I included a picture of Bob and Rick at the 2024 Corvette Caravan Cowboy Dinner. It was an unforgettable evening!

Submitted by: Cookie Capsalors Membership Chair



# **MEMBER NEWS**

# HAPPY CORVETTE BIRTHDAY!

Doug Capsalors	05/03	Cookie Capsalors	05/03
<b>Grant Sanborn</b>	05/03	Jerry Breen	05/04
Ralph Malafronte	05/04	Eleen Bialek	05/05
Andrew Siena	05/06	Steve Widger	05/07
Peter Monks	05/10	Todd Loucks	05/11
Lucy Wasserback	05/11	Rick Lendroth	05/12
Mike Dansereau	05/14	Barry Cohen	05/17
Liz Cresci	05/18	Susan Stacey	05/18
Jim Simses	05/18	Ken Uliano	05/18
Leon Bailey	05/19	Peter Smario III	05/19
Ron Goldberg	05/22	Bob Manzella	05/22
Nina Zschunke	05/22	John Pearson	05/23
Valerie Palmieri	05/28	Gary Schubert	05/28
Scott Tully	05/31		

### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

We really need your help in writing articles for the newsletter. You have responded very well with photos of events, but we also need more articles. Anyone who organizes an event should prepare a write-up for the newsletter after the event or ask someone in the group to do it. You don't have to be concerned with the spelling or grammar - I'll take care of that. That's my job as editor.

I also look forward to any tips you can contribute to the newsletter to help your fellow members. Let's try to continue the "Tips From Members" section of the Vette Gazette, similar to what you see in your car magazines. Send your inputs directly to me. Do not send them through the Club's group email.

Thank you. Les Browne

# THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

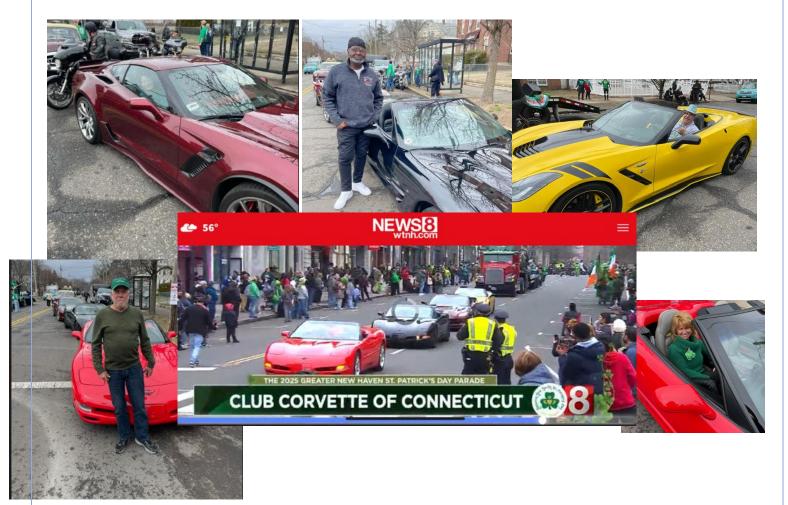
Rick Wasserback Bob Wadyka Jim Gurn

**Ken Uliano Cookie Capsalors** 

## New Haven's St. Patrick's Day Parade

The early rain the morning of the New Haven St Patrick's Day Parade kept a few participants away but never dampened the spirits of the spectators that lined the 1.3-mile parade route. This is the largest free single-day spectator event in the state of Connecticut, which lasts 3 hours from start to finish. WTNH did an incredible job of broadcasting the event with all their staff participating and announcing a history of Club Corvette of Connecticut as we drove down the streets including and a history of our charitable support to others in need.

Jim Gurn led our group in his red C5 closely followed by Al Collins in a black C5 – tops down for both. Rick & Lucy followed in a C7 and Tony Ferranti bringing up the rear in his 2015 Velocity Yellow Corvette. The Corvettes were a big hit as the cars bellowed from their tuned exhaust as the engines were revved. "Rev it Up" and "Let's Hear It" could be heard throughout the parade route, with the energy of the crowd contagious. Both sides of the street the entire 1.3-mile route was filled with cheering spectators – a great day for all of us to be Irish and join the celebration.



Submitted by: Jim Gurn

## Projects for when your Winter SUCKS!!!

The older I get, the more I dislike winter. Now, don't get me wrong. This past winter wasn't all that bad as far as winters go. As a matter of fact, it really didn't suck. But I'm always looking for something to keep me occupied and this winter I found a couple of things I'd like to share with you folks.

As you may know, I'm a tinkerer, (that's a real word... I looked it up), so I started looking at the various Corvette Forums on the internet in a search for my next project and spent many hours checking out what other folks were doing. I even spent time reading through many of the Technical Service Bulletins, and I found one that piqued my interest. (Bulletin id: GCUS-9-4986) It has to do with a 2018 software upgrade to the Magnetic Ride for the C7.

As much as I use too many words, I'll try to net this out. Basically, any 2014 through 2018 C7 Corvette with the Mag Ride option is eligible for this software upgrade. As anyone with that option would agree, the suspension makes the car ride like the muscle cars we had back in the 60's and 70's... Meaning they ride like a truck. I mean if you drove down a bumpy road, your fillings would come loose, and that's exactly what we wanted back then... But not today...But GM changed the software in 2019 to make any Mag Ride Corvette, ride a little more genteel while doing everyday cruising, but remain a beast when needed, and they were making the Software Upgrade available to earlier C7 Corvettes.

I quickly found out that this wasn't a project I could do in my home garage, so I set out to find a dealership to take on a 7-year-old Service Bulletin. I didn't have to look past our Sponsor, Bobby Crabtree and his Service Consultant, Dave Fagnani and Fred the Service Technician.

As you might imagine, they needed to do their own due diligence, (even after I gave them my 6 pages of instructions with multiple magic marker highlighted details and part numbers ③). But, in the end, it all got done and I'm very happy with the results. Now, it wasn't inexpensive, (LOL, who am I kidding...DUDE .... it's a CORVETTE!!!!), but I plan to spend many hours behind the wheel of AWWWSUM, so I figure I'll get it back in saved dental bills ⑥.

The second modification was something I could do myself, and it has to do with the Gas Pedal. It's a 10-15 min mod that gives you the impression that you've added 50 horsepower, and you don't even get your hands dirty. It's from a company named SOLER. It works on ALL C6, C7 and C8's.

As you may know, it seems that everything these days is "fly by wire," even the gas pedal. When I was a kid, the gas pedal was attached to a linkage that worked its way to the carburetor, and the more you pushed, the more gas poured into the engine. Not anymore.!!! Nowadays, the gas pedal is connected to an electronic circuit that connects

to something called a throttle body so that when you depress the pedal, that movement tells the computers to call a meeting between all the different sensors to discuss the speed, weather conditions, RPMs, tire pressure, etc. And when they all agree, they allow what they think is the exact right amount of fuel to enter the engine.

Here's where the SOLER company comes in. They have a tiny electronic device that is connected to the back of the gas pedal. The device has a tiny controller which offers 9 different settings with many discreet settings within each. And even better yet, THERE'S AN APP for your cell phone. Once completed, the driver selects the appropriate MODE for the type of driving he or she might like at that moment, and it gives the driver the impression that the engine is more responsive, and in fact...It really is.

I've done this mod as well, and I cannot get over the effect it has made. And there's an added bonus. There is one selection that could stop our beauties from being stolen. That selection is made via the "app" and even if the thief gets her started, the car WILL NOT

MOVE....

NOW... If they only made it for my C5...but sadly, they do not <a>®</a>.

Submitted by: Ken Uliano



# Artifact of the Month Dale Earnhardt's C5-R And Letters to Andy Pilgrim

During the closing laps of the 2000 Petit Le Mans, Corvette Racing driver Andy Pilgrim made a daring move. As he approached turn one, Pilgrim quickly cut to the inside of Tommy Archer's Dodge Viper and ran side by side with him going into the corner. The two cars never touched, and Archer wound up sliding off course, allowing Pilgrim to take the lead. This move, which became known as the "Pilgrim Pass," sealed the victory for Corvette Racing.

Pilgrim's impressive drive caught the attention of NASCAR superstar Dale Earnhardt. A few days after the race, Pilgrim was shocked to receive a letter from Earnhardt congratulating him on the victory. Earnhardt also expressed interest in being Pilgrim's Corvette Racing teammate for the 2001 24 Hours of Daytona. Two weeks later, at a press conference at Earnhardt's Mooresville, North Carolina race shop, Chevrolet announced that Earnhardt and his son, Dale Jr., would indeed compete with Pilgrim and Kelly Collins at Daytona in a Corvette C5-R.

Pilgrim and Earnhardt Sr. became good friends as they prepared for the race. Earnhardt had never driven a racing Corvette before and leaned on Pilgrim's expertise for how to maximize the performance of the C5-R. The Corvette that the Earnhardts, Pilgrim, and Collins drove at Daytona was the same chassis (C5-R #004) that Pilgrim raced in the Petit Le Mans, but the race number was changed from four to three to match the elder Earnhardt's number in NASCAR.

The 2001 Daytona race resulted in a major victory for Corvette Racing. Johnny O'Connell, Ron Fellows, Chris Kneifel, and Franck Fréon won both the GTS class and the overall victory in the number two C5-R. Pilgrim, Collins, and the Earnhardts finished 14 laps behind their teammates to earn second in the GTS class and fourth overall. A few days after the race, Pilgrim received a second letter from Earnhardt Sr. thanking him for his guidance and friendship. Earnhardt reiterated his interest in being Pilgrim's teammate again, but he never got the chance. A last lap crash in the Daytona 500 took Earnhardt's life just 13 days after he wrote his second letter to Pilgrim. The 2001 24 Hours of Daytona would unfortunately be Earnhardt's only start with Corvette Racing.













October 2, 2000

Andy Pilgrim GM Motorsports 100 Renaissance Ctr. Mail Code 482-A26-B76 Detroit, MI 48265

Andy;

Dale

I just wanted to drop you a line and congratulate you on your victory at the Petite Lemans at Road Atlanta.

That sort of drive and determination is exactly why I want you for a teammate in the 24 hours of Daytona. That last lap looked like something we do at Bristol.

If I can adapt to these high-downforce Corvettes like you've adapted to rubbing fenders, we should be able to skin some snakes come February.

Best wishes. I look forward to seeing you here on October 17.





# 1961 Gulf Oil Corvette And Sports Car of the Year Photograph

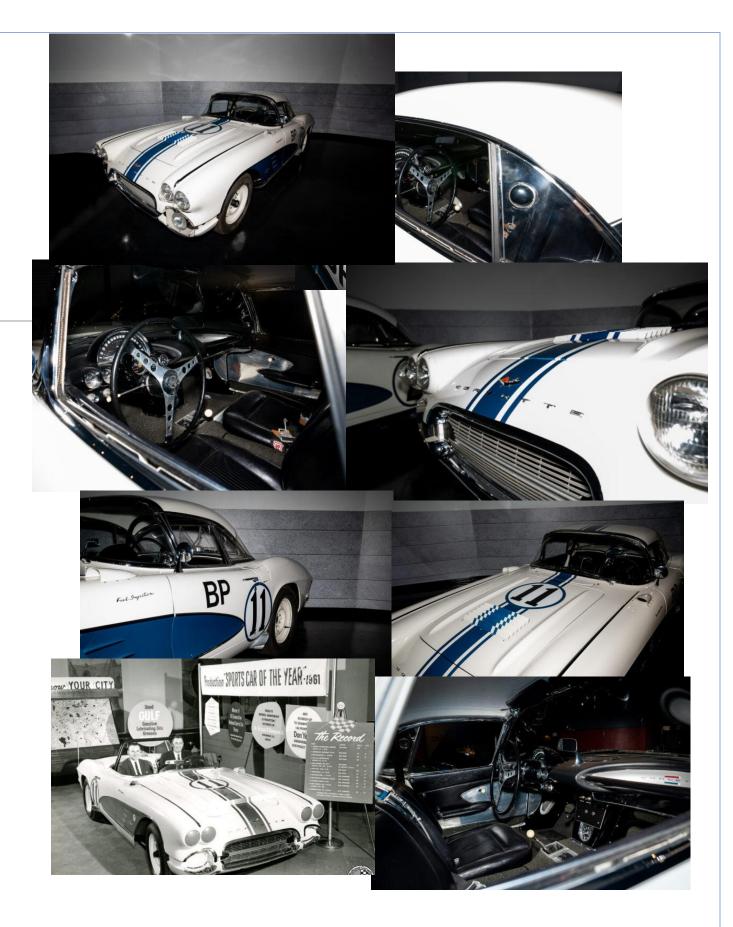
On display at the National Corvette Museum is a famous 1961 Corvette loaned from Ted and Shannon Skokos. Painted white with blue racing stripes down the middle, this car is one of the historic racing Corvettes fielded by the Gulf Oil team. Also on exhibit is a black and white photograph from the Museum's archives of the same Corvette. The photo captures a celebratory display created by Gulf honoring the car's 1961 championship season. Seated in the Corvette are two men who were instrumental in earning that championship, <u>Dr. Dick Thompson</u> and <u>Don Yenko</u>.

Yenko and Thompson were both experienced racers before joining forces with Gulf Oil. Yenko began competing in Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) events in the 1950s, and his Chevrolet dealership in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania became a well-known center for building performance cars. Thompson was a dentist in Washington, DC who caught the racing bug in 1952 and started winning SCCA championships just a few years later. Yenko's and Thompson's connection to Gulf Oil was Grady Davis, the company vice president who financed the race team. The Corvette in the photograph was delivered to Yenko's shop early in 1961 and competed in the 12 Hours of Sebring with Yenko and Ben Moore as drivers. The duo finished the race and placed third in their class.

The Gulf Oil Corvette quickly became a dominant force in SCCA B-Production racing. Yenko finished third in his first start in the Corvette but won the next five races, earning victories at tracks like Bridgehampton, Road America, and Lime Rock. However, he was disqualified from another victory when SCCA officials found the car had an aluminum flywheel. Yenko was suspended and Thompson took over driving duties for the Corvette, winning another five races and securing the B-Production championship.

In the photograph of the championship display, Thompson sits behind the wheel of the Corvette with Yenko in the passenger seat. A large banner above the car declares it the "Production 'Sports Car of the Year.'" Next to the Corvette is a record of its near-perfect SCCA B-Production season and signage honoring the championship points accumulated by Thompson and Yenko. The Gulf Oil Corvette would win a second SCCA championship in 1962, cementing its legacy as one of the most dominant racing Corvettes of its era.





# David Hill Resigns from the NCM and Bryce Burlow is named its New President and CEO



Photo Credit: National Corvette Museum

Congratulations to the members of the <u>National Corvette Museum</u> who made their voices heard! The National Corvette Museum has announced that <u>David Hill</u> has submitted his resignation as President and CEO of the organization effective immediately on Wednesday. This move comes after it was learned that Hill had closed his previous classic trucks restoration parts business very abruptly in late March, leaving many customers who had paid for parts empty handed.

Those customers were pretty vocal about their displeasure on the hiring of David Hill and began posting on the NCM's Facebook Page to let its members know what had transpired at Mar-k. Our <u>article on the David Hill controversy</u> also got major traction with over 160 comments alone on the Facebook post. So we appreciate those of you who shared the article and made your voices heard!

We're also very happy to see the Board of Directors move with lightning speed to change course, and we hope those customers of Mar-K are somehow made whole again. The really good news to come out of this is that the NCM Board of Directors has also announced that Bryce Burklow has been appointed at President and Chief Executive Officer effective immediately! Bryce has been part of the Corvette Museum for 15 years and he served as the interim Chief Operating Officer as the national search for a new CEO was underway. Bryce was also responsible for Events and Facilities during his tenure, and he knows the operations of the museum intimately.

The National Corvette Museum sent an email to its membership on Wednesday afternoon to confirm the leadership changes. "We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition," the message said. "The high level of interest and engagement from our Members and the Corvette community has been a powerful reminder of how much this institution means to so many."

Moving forward, we are hoping that the Corvette Museum's leadership on the Board of Directors takes a long, hard look at their processes for hiring major positions as well as making sure that these people are properly "vetted." Checking our archives, they announced the national search in February 2024 and a year later this is what we are left with. I can't image the amount of money that went into this failed hiring, and I hope that something is done with the headhunter firm in charge of the search. Recently, the Board of Directors has taken on some new members, with Amy Masica (Chevrolet Marketing Director) and Ken Lingenfelter (Owner, Lingenfelter Performance Engineering) joining the board this year. Let's hope some fresh ideas and processes come out of this debacle.

# **NCM CORVETTE RAFFLE**

The National Corvette Museum is licensed by the Kentucky Department of Charitable Gaming under license number ORG0000854.

Purchasers located in Kentucky can purchase raffle tickets on their personal computers, mobile devices and on-site at the National Corvette Museum and NCM Motorsports Park.

To purchase a raffle ticket online, you must be at least 18 years of age and be physically located in Kentucky at the time of purchase. You do not have to be a resident of Kentucky to participate.

If you are not located in Kentucky and will be using a credit card as your form of payment, you can use the NCM website to interactively create an order form. The payment information will be encrypted for your protection and broken into two parts, some of which will only be on the printed form. You must have access to a printer at the time that you create the order.

You may enter the NCM's Interactive Mode here: <a href="https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org">https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org</a>

Alternatively, you may download the NCM's Raffle Ticket Request Form at

https://www.clubcorvettect.com/wp-

content/uploads/2022/06/RaffleTicketOrderForm.pdf

Type your information in the available fields, print the completed form and mail it, with your payment, to the NCM.

Below are current NCM active raffles.

Don't forget for your raffle needs.
You can always contact George Sipprell at: <a href="mailto:gsipprell@gmail.com">gsipprell@gmail.com</a>



#### 2025 Sea Wolf Gray Corvette Convertible

Price: **\$200.00**Drawing: April 17, 2025



### 2025 Red Mist Corvette Z06 Convertible

Price: **\$300.00**Drawing: April 25, 2025



2025 Arctic White Corvette Coupe Price: \$20.00 Drawing: April 26, 2025



# 2025 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe Price: \$150.00

Drawing: May 22, 2025

# CLUB CORVETTE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### **April Events**

- Apr 1<sup>st</sup> General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm Parthenon Diner, 374 East Main St, Branford
- April 18-27 New York International Auto Show at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City.
- Apr 29<sup>th</sup> E-Board Meeting Parthenon Diner

### **Upcoming Events**

- May 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm Parthenon Diner, 374 East Main St, Branford
- May 10 Club Corvette of Connecticut Members Only Car Show Hammonasset State Park, Madison CT. Bring your favorite ride, it does not have to be a Corvette!!
- May 13 Corvette Night at Southington Drive-In / Tony Delano Memorial at the Southington CT Drive In. A tribute to the late CCC member Tony Delano, ALL proceeds will be donated to The Ronald McDonald House of CT. All makes of cars are welcome. A copy of the flyer is attached.
- May 27th E-Board Meeting Parthenon Diner

### **2025 Future Events**

- Jun 12-15 Back to the Beach, Old Orchard Beach
- Jun 14 Rallye for a Cure 13<sup>th</sup> annual to find a cure for Type I diabetes, Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> with laps at Palmer Motorsport Park, Palmer Ma. Register on The Rallye For a Cure website.
- Jun 14 Vette for Vets Show
- Jun 27 Crystal Ridge Winery Cruise South Glastonbury, CT from 3:30 until the wine is gone!!
- Jun 30 National Corvette Day "Drive your Corvette"
- July 20 Club Corvette of Connecticut Annual Picnic at The Ponte Club, Farmwood Road, Waterbury CT, 12:00 4:00
- Aug 3 Club Corvette of Connecticut Annual Show and Swap at Moroso Performance Products, Guilford, CT August 3rd, rain date August 10th. Flyer Attached
- Aug 21-23 Corvettes at Carlisle
- Aug 24 Corvette Club of Rhode Island Annual Car Show
- Dec 13 Club Corvette Annual Holiday Party, Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at The Clinton Country Club, Clinton CT

#### ō ŒΒ

Cruise Nights			
<b>Dinner at the Parthenon Diner</b> – Come join us for dinner and conversation on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm Parthenon Diner 374 E Main St. Branford, CT – this will continue each Thursday evening unless Covid should spike again.			



# **Corvette Night**

### In Honor of Tony Delano

All proceeds from this evening will be donated in honor of Tony Delano

To: Ronald MacDonald House



Trophies \* 50/50 \* Music \* Food

#### All makes welcomed as always

#### When:

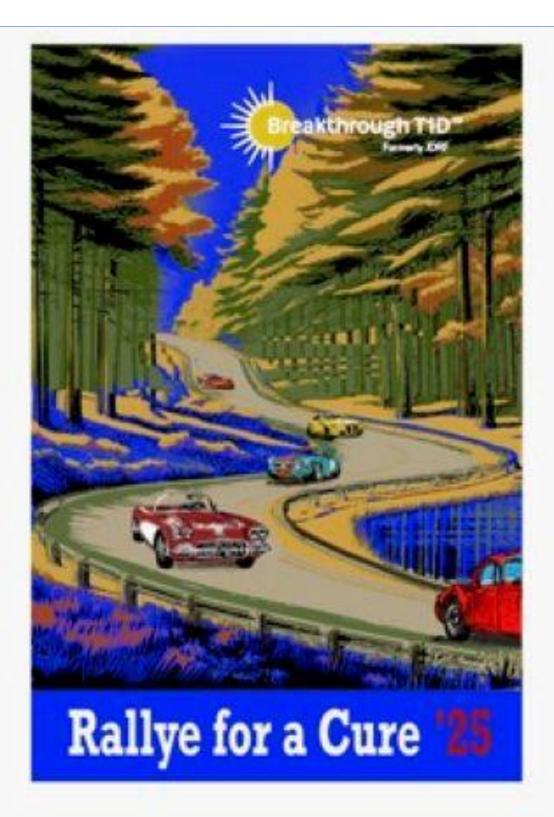
Date: May 13, 2025 Rain Date: May 20, 2025

Time: 5 to 8 pm

#### Where:

Southington Drive-In 995 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike

Southington, CT







Rain Date: August 10th 2025 For more information

WWW.CLUBCORVETTECT.COM Sue Wadyka

(203) 605-6124

**Dennis White** (860) 707-2242 cyou@comcast.net dwhite0124@yahoo.com Location:

**Moroso Performance Products Guilford**, CT Exit 59 (Goose Lane) off I-95

Car Registration & Clean-up: 8:00-11:00 am Judging starts 11:00 am

















# **Classified Section**



To place an ad, please contact Les Browne

Note: Your ad must be in by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. Six months free for Club members.

### 1979 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray

This 1979 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray is powered by an 8-cylinder gasoline engine paired with an automatic transmission. This Chevy Corvette is shown with a red exterior and a black interior. Runs very well. Gutted and restored in 2005 including tires, brakes, suspension, steering, autometer mechanical gauges, weight reduction, etc. (all receipts available). Working high/low/brake/blinker lights and fully street legal. AM/FM/CD radio, no heat or AC. New battery, filters, oil, and plugs.

Features
Custom Modifications for Racing
Racing Bucket Seats with Harness

Seller's Note: Odometer not working. Vehicle has approximately 130,000 miles. Asking \$6,999 or Best Offer

For additional detail you can contact the seller at:

Home - 508-221-8569.

Or

Email - bkeene100@comcast.net



### **2002 Corvette Convertible**



Automatic
Torch Red with Light Oak Interior and Convertible Top
28,950 miles
VIN# 1G1YY32G325116606
New Michelin Tires
Memory Seats
Head Up Display
CD Player
Car Cover
\$23,500 or Best Offer
Call 203-306-7130 ask for Pam

### **CLUB CORVETTE OF CONNECTICUT APPAREL**

## Club Apparel – Lands' End

sold exclusively to Club members
Go to the Members Only page on the Web Site and select the Club Clothing option

### **MEMBER SERVICES**

Members who have businesses or professional services are listed here:











