February 2023

THE CONNECTION

The Monthly Newsletter of the Capital City Corvette Club
Volume LIII • Number 2

CAPITAL CITY CORVETTE CLUB

Founded in 1958
www.cccorvette.org

In this issue . . .

- Last Months Events
- Upcoming Club Activities
- This Months Birthdays
- President's Page
- 2023 Club Officers
- Members Meeting Minutes
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Club Points
- CCCC Supporters
- Sponsors Pages

MICHIGAN REGION

February 2023

97 Members
2 Honorary Members
36 FCOA

CHEVROLET Shaheen
LANSING, MICHIGAN
Our Sponsor
www.Shaheenlansing.com

ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

- General Membership Meeting — Feb 1
  - Zoom Meeting
- Let's Meet for Breakfast — Feb 11
- Board Meeting — Feb 15
- <u>Upcoming Events</u>
  - Bowling with Jackson Club — April 2 Tentative
  - Regional Banquet — April 16
  - CCCC Awards Banquet — April 22
  - Vermontville Parade — April 29
  - Memorial Day Parade — May 29
  - Blessing of the Vettes — June 10 (or June 17)
  - 2023 Convention in Bowling Green — June 24 -30
  - 65th Anniversary Party (Shaheen's) — Jul 22
  - 65th Anniversary Party (Maynard's) — Jul 29
  - Birch Run Autocross — Aug 5-6
  - Corvette Crossroads — Aug 26
  - Children's Miracle Network Auto Show — Sept 10 Tenative

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Wagner
February 2

James Spaulding
February

Geofrey Cradit
February 7

Diana Mosher
February 24

Let's meet for breakfast!

When: **Saturday, February 11 @ 9:30 a.m.**

Where: **Spud's Family Restaurant**
611 S. Waverly Rd., Lansing (just north of 496)

Contact Gloria Reiffer by noon on Thursday, February 9 if you plan to join us!

E-mail mrsnomis1@att.net or call 517.763.1365.

2022 NCCC MI REGION

Awards Banquet Invitation

Sunday April 16, 2023

From 12:00pm to 4:00pm at Waldenwoods Banquet Center
2975 Old US-23, Howell MI 48855

Awards Presentation, Cash Bar, Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes
50/25/15/10 Drawing

Please RSVP for the awards Banquet no later than March 25th, 2023. $36 per person. Make your check payable to *"Flint Corvette Club"* Include your Club and Complete Names of the individuals attending on the attached form.
RSVP early. We have 150 seats available.

RSVP and checks should be mailed to:

Michaelle Kellermeyer
Flint Corvette Club
610 North Ortonville Rd,
Ortonville, MI 48462

For additional information call:

Michaelle Kellermeyer (248) 627-2717
Connie Esposito (313) 815-0811
Danny Kellermeyer (248) 627-4026

Danny is looking for pictures that you might like included up on the movie screen. You, your cars & Corvette Events. Maybe 10 per club.

You can e-mail them to: djkellermeyer@comcast.net

MICHIGAN REGION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CORVETTE CLUBS

2022 AWARDS BANQUET

SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023
12:00 to 4:00
Waldenwoods Banquet Center
2975 Old US-23 Howell, MI 48855

- **AWARDS PRESENTATION**
- **BUFFET DINNER**
- **CASH BAR**
- **DOOR PRIZES**
- **50/25/15/10 DRAWING**
- **$ 36 PER PERSON**

Please make checks Payable to:

FLINT CORVETTE CLUB

MAIL TO

Michaelle Kellermeyer
610 North Ortonville Road
Ortonville, MI 48462

✂ - - -

2022 Top Ten Awards Banquet

Location: Buddies Pub & Grill
2040 Aurelius Road, Holt

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Sign up at a meeting, or RSVP to Mary Wells by April 12.

Phone: 937.689.1599 • Email: tmblwells@yahoo.com

Awards presented to Capital City Corvette Club members that finished 2022 in the Top Ten.

All Capital City Corvette Club members are invited to attend.

Food orders will be off the menu or banquet style, depending on the number of attendees.

2023 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	SCHEDULE	LOCATION
6/24/2023	Saturday	12pm - 6pm	Registration and Tech Inspection	Hotel
		2pm - 6pm	Corvette Mall and Hospitality Room	Hotel
		6pm - 10pm	Hospitality Room open to hang out	Hotel
6/25/2023	Sunday	9am - 5pm	Registration and Tech Inspection	Hotel
		12pm - 5pm	Corvette Mall and Hospitality Room	Hotel
		6pm - 7:30pm	Champions Dinner	Hotel
		7:30pm - 10:30pm	Welcome Party/Speaker/Awards/Entertainment	Hotel
6/26/2023	Monday	8am - 12pm	Concours/People's Choice Shows	NCM
		9am - 3pm	Tour: Country Music Hall of Fame/VIP lunch	Hotel
		11am - 3pm	Rallye	NCM
		12pm - 5pm	Corvette Mall and Hospitality Room	Hotel
		7pm - 10:30pm	Champion Celebration Party	Hotel
6/27/2023	Tuesday	6am - 7pm	Tour: Bourbon Trail	Hotel
		8am - 5pm	Drags	Beech Bend
		8am - 3pm	Funkhana	Hotel
		10am - 4pm	Tour: General Jackson Showboat Lunch Cruise	Hotel
		12pm - 5pm	Corvette Mall and Hospitality Room	Hotel
		6pm - 10:30pm	Ballpark Dinner/Team Spirit Party	Hotel
		7pm - 9pm	Valve Cover Race	Hotel
6/28/2023	Wednesday	6am - 6pm	Tour: Bourbon Trail	Hotel
		8am - 5pm	Low Speed	MSP
		9am - 3pm	Tour: Country Music Hall of Fame/VIP lunch	Hotel
		12pm - 3pm	Funkhana	Hotel
		12pm - 5pm	Corvette Mall and Hospitality Room	Hotel
6/29/2023	Thursday	8am - 5pm	High Speed	MSP
		8am - 5pm	Tour: Ryman Auditorium/Grand Ole Opry House	Hotel
		10am - 4pm	Tour: General Jackson Showboat Lunch Cruise	Hotel
		12pm - 5pm	Corvette Mall and Hospitality Room	Hotel
		7pm - 10:30pm	Party/Ice Cream Social	Hotel
6/30/2023	Friday	7:30am - 11am	Breakfast/Convention Awards	Hotel
		9am - 3pm	Tour: Summer Crest Winery	Hotel
		9am - 3pm	Tour: Lane Motor Museum	Hotel
		6pm - 10pm	Gala @ NCM/Speaker/National Awards	NCM

2023 NCCC Convention Tours

			Limit
Monday, June 26			
8:30am-3:30pm	**$135**	**Country Music Experience** o Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville, TN o VIP Lunch – with Country Music songwriter	**54**
Tuesday, June 27			
5:45am-6pm	**$105**	**Bourbon Trail #1** o Cooperage - Lebanon, Ky o Lunch – Cedarwood Restaurant - Lebanon, KY (not included) o Heaven Hill Bourbon – Bardstown, KY	**48**
10am-4pm	**$110**	**General Jackson Showboat** o Lunch and Show	**54**
Wednesday, June 28			
6am-4pm **NOTE: These options may change**	**$105**	**Bourbon Trail #2 - Option #1** o Bardstown Bourbon – Bardstown, KY o Lunch – Old Talbott Tavern – Bardstown, KY (not included) o Lux Row – Bardstown, KY Option #1 - Distillers Production & Tasting Tour	**14**
	$115	**Bourbon Trail #2 - Option #2** o Bardstown Bourbon – Bardstown, KY o Lunch – Old Talbott Tavern – Bardstown, KY (not included) o Lux Row – Bardstown, KY Option #2 - A Taste of Lux Row Tour	**12**
10am-4pm	**$110**	**General Jackson Showboat** o Lunch and Show	**54**
Thursday, June 29			
8:30am-4:30pm	**$145**	**Nashville, TN** o Grand Ole Opry House o Lunch – Ole Red o Ryman Auditorium	**54**
8:30am-3:30pm	**$135**	**Country Music Experience** o Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville, TN o VIP Lunch – with Country Music songwriter	**54**
Friday, June 30			
10am-3pm	**$60**	**Summer Crest Winery – Portland, TN** o Lunch	**54**
10am-5pm	**$65**	**Lane Motor Museum – Nashville, TN** o Lunch – Monell's at the Manor	**54**

President's Page

Members,

While winter is usually a dull time in the car hobby, this year that doesn't seem to apply. Z06's are starting to be delivered to consumers and we are getting videos from owners posted on Social Media. The Eray was unveiled sporting the Z06 look and performance never before seen from a GM production car. Yes, electrification of the Corvette is here and GM has delivered. A 10.5 second Quarter Mile and a 2.5 second 0-60 time, representing the quickest Corvette ever produced from the factory. This is a true performance Hybrid to have a Corvette again competing with Porsche and Ferrari who have released Performance Hybrids, for a fraction of the cost. I know electrification is a contentious issue within the community, but you can't argue with the results. The Hybrid configuration allows for all the sound and feel of your traditional sports car, but with the added help of an electric motor. The electric motor assistance on the front wheels provides improved traction and acceleration to allow the Eray to achieve ridiculous performance numbers. While not for everyone, the Eray is keeping the Corvette nameplate at the forefront of technology and GM is providing reasonably affordable access to this level of performance the Europeans cannot. Honda is also in the mix with the NSX Performance Hybrid, but the Eray's capabilities are exceeding its current iteration. I am looking forward to track times for the Eray to come as well. Will there be a penalty for the added mass of the battery and front drivetrain in exchange for the traction?

This is the time of year our club prepares for the upcoming Corvette season. The Board is reviewing the budget and already in the planning stages for our events. While some costs have gone up, it would appear we will still be able to have our full slate of events. This will be a special year as we get to celebrate our 65th anniversary the entire year. While we celebrate longevity we also have to acknowledge we are the stewards to position our club to last another 65 years. Our goal should always be to grow the club and to pass the traditions on. While we do many good things in giving back to our community, we could do more with a larger member base. So, as you attend events this year, please talk to folks about us, what we do, and how we give back. Capital City started out 2023 with around 100 members. A Strong total to start a year with, but would be great to see that number grow. Especially with the continued interest in the C8 bringing a new generation of owners to the Corvette world.

Remember to Wave,

Kyle
President
Capital City Corvette Club

2023 CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kyle Felts

GOVERNOR/VP

Simon Reiffer

SECRETARY

Tim Wells

TREASURER

James Sutherland

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

?

?

COMPETITION DIRECTOR

Kevin Mead

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Angela Hyde

POINTS DIRECTOR

Dan Burk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tom Faupel

PR DIRECTOR

Chuck Miller

2023 APPOINTED OFFICERS

CHAPLAIN

Ward Harris

HEARTS & FLOWERS

Ann Voss

HISTORIAN

Sue Keith

NCM AMBASSADOR

Casey Mulvany

PHOTOGRAPHER

Stella Wood

QUARTERMASTER

Randy Putmon

SARGEANT AT ARMS

Geofrey Cradit

WEBMASTER

Gloria Reiffer

PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Maynard

FACEBOOK MODERATOR

Dave Voss

Membership Meeting Minutes

Capital City Corvette Club
Membership Meeting
January 4, 2023 @ 7:00 PM: Delhi Cafe & Zoom

7:00 Call to Order: Kyle Felts

- There were five items in the mail:
  - An ad renewal from Meridian Hearing Centers.
  - Thank you letters from the Lansing Food Bank and Old News Boys for the club's 2022 donations to their organizations.
  - Requests for donations from St Vincent's and the Red Cross.
- Kyle thanked those who organized and led the holiday party, and commented on our Toys for Tots donations at both Lingenfelter's and Shaheen's.

7:05 Board Reports:

Secretary: Tim Wells

- No additions or corrections were made. Motion to approve November minutes: Tom Faupel, seconded by Simon Reiffer, and approved by the majority of the membership in attendance.

Treasurer: James Sutherland

- Waiting to transition responsibilities from Mike Britz in the near future.

V/P Governor: Simon Reiffer

- Lots to report on from the latest Governor's meeting held on November 12, 2022:
  - Election Results: Deb Murphy, President; Steve Johnson, Vice President of Membership; Craig Kamradt, Director of Public Relations; Denny Luther, Parliamentarian; Kay Clawson, Treasurer.
  - Rule change on flyers to take out extra information about home addresses. We only need contact info for the chairperson.
  - Consensus to split speed events from the other categories for national awards, allowing non-racers to be recognized nationally. Dropping the overall champion rings will pay for all the other awards.
  - NCCC has 18,694 members and 238 clubs prior to renewals. We are losing two clubs in the Rocky Mountain region, but picking several clubs in the West Coast region (former Western States Corvette Council) and in the Midwest Region. NCCC gained 41 members through NCM deliveries.
  - Membership cards will be mailed out to members early in 2023. Membership cards received thru the email system are designed to be saved to your smart phone rather than be printed.
  - The 2022 Convention reported a profit of $20,389.55. Half will go to NCCC and half to East Region.
  - The NCCC Convention in Bowling Green, KY will be held June 24-30. Convention information is available at corvettesnccc.org. Online registration open at 10:00 AM on February 1. Be aware that you must register for each of the events you wish to participate in, even the free ones. They need a head count. Some will have additional costs, such as the General Jackson Showboat Lunch Cruise.

Membership Meeting Minutes

- Harlan Charles will be the keynote speaker at the National Corvette Museum GALA on Friday night, June 30. NCCC will celebrate the 70th birthday of the Corvette at the GALA.
- The host hotel, Holiday Inn University Plaza, has 180 rooms at $122.44 per night, with two breakfast vouchers per room per day. Two overflow hotels are located across the street, Hilton Gardens and Courtyard by Marriott are $119 per night with 30 rooms in the courtesy block. You cannot register before February 1; room rates go up after May 21. You need to register for the convention before you can register for a room.
- 2024 Convention in Joplin, MO. Black Hills, SD or Niagara Falls area were suggested for 2025.
- Dave Goebel researched National Corvette Museum donors. NCCC members represent 38% of donors in the $1,000 to $25,000 range; and 35%-45% of the large donors in the $25,000 to unlimited range. NCCC members represent 58% of donors who put NCM in their Will.
- A reminder about the St. Jude's tire raffle is included with the President's message every month.
- NCCC's insurance for 2023 is not yet finalized and there is extra scrutiny on NCCC.
- Original budget projection was for (-$108,000) Looking like actual will be closer to (-$60,000.) $40,000 of which is attributed to the cost of Convention Blue Bars. There was discussion about the Governor's meeting location bids being accepted. The current location wants to begin charging NCCC for meeting rooms.
- Clubs returning their Charity Form are put into a drawing for a Michelin Tire Certificate. CCCC's Club Charity Form has been submitted. (We donated approximately $9,000 back to the community in 2022. ($5,855 in cash and approximately $3,200 in bingo prizes and toys.)
- The NCCC Scholarship Application process ends on May 1, 2023. Children and grandchildren of NCCC members may apply for $1,500 scholarships. Contact Michele Cantelmo for more information.

Points Director: Mary Wells

- Points are up to date. Will be transferring position to Dan Burke for 2023.

Competition Director: Kevin Mead

- The Jackson Club is in the process of determining if we will get their sanction numbers for 2023.
- We have submitted the deposit for the Birch Run autocross on August 5-6.
- Trying to get sanction numbers for a funkhana event, but this may be difficult.

Editor: Tom Faupel

- Newsletter published yesterday.
- As always, appreciating input for the next newsletter.

Membership Director: Angela Hyde

- The club currently has 97 members, with one new member in the process of joining, 2 honorary members, and 36 FCOA (there are 1,275 FCOA nationally).
- You will be getting your new NCCC cards shortly. Please make sure your information is correct, and let Angela know if it is not.
- She and others are in the planning process for a Lilly Schittenhelm baby shower.

Membership Meeting Minutes

Public Relations Director: Chuck Miller

- Chuck has sent out the ad renewals, and has five who have renewed for 2023. There is also a new ad placed by Bob Adado for his Mason business.
- The Vermontville parade is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th.

Social Director: (position currently vacant)

7:30 Appointed Officer Report:

Past President: Bob Maynard

- Thinking we need a funkhana during the club's 65th celebration.

Photographer: Stella Wood

- Not present/No report

Webmaster: Gloria Reiffer

- Website is currently down because AT&T is no longer doing web hosting and failed to forward the certificates to the new host. Should be fixed shortly.
- There will be a club breakfast at Spuds on February 11th. See the flyer in the newsletter.

Facebook Moderator: Dave Voss

- Not present/No report

Zoom Facilitator: Kyle Felts

- All is well.

Quartermaster: Randy Putmon

- Trailer is good

Sergeant at Arms: Geofrey Cradit

- Present/No report

NCM Ambassador: Casey Mulvany

- Not present/No report

Historian: Sue Keith

- The historian's report was published in the most recent newsletter. Sue has finalized 2022 and ready for 2023.

Hearts & Flowers: Ann Voss

- Not present/No report

Chaplain: Ward Harris

- Present/No report

7:40 New Business:

- The Blessing of the Vettes is scheduled for June 17th.
- Autocross (discussed above).
- CMN – The current plan is to have a car show at Shaheen's probably in September, but no date has been picked yet.

7:50 Other Business:

65th anniversary plans – Committee Update? Picture Update?

Board Meeting Minutes

Capital City Corvette Club
Board Meeting
January 18, 2023 @ 6:30 PM: Delhi Cafe & Zoom

6:30 Call to Order: Kyle Felts

- Review of mail received: None

6:35 Board Reports:

Secretary: Tim Wells

- Motion to approve November Board minutes: Simon Reiffer, seconded by Mary Wells, and approved by the majority of the Board members in attendance.

Treasurer: James Sutherland

- Certificate of Deposit has been renewed.
- There is one outstanding check sent to the VFW Children's Home that has not yet cleared. Bob Maynard will give them a call to follow-up on this.

V/P Governor: Simon Reiffer

- The NCCC Convention in Bowling Green, KY will be held Jun 24-30. Online registration opens at 10:00 AM on Feb 1st.
- The Regional meeting will be held at Buddies in Holt on Feb 21st.

Social Director: (position currently vacant)

Points Director: Dan Burk

- The points spreadsheet and sign-in lists have been updated to reflect the current membership.
- Mary Wells will be the lead on the upcoming Awards Banquet, which was tentatively scheduled for Apr 22nd at Buddies. Motion by Dan Burk and seconded by Simon Reiffer, and approved by the majority of the Board members in attendance.

Competition Director: Kevin Mead

- Kevin has not heard back from the Jackson Club if they will be able to share their sanction numbers for 2023 with us.
- Kevin is exploring options for timing equipment for the club's low speed event.
- Kevin is working with Jim Sutherland to get both names on the checking account.

Editor: Tom Faupel

- Present/No report

Membership Director: Angela Hyde

- The club currently has 97 members, 2 honorary members, and 36 FCOA.

Public Relations Director: Chuck Miller

- Six of the 15 previous ads have been renewed for 2023.

Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 Appointed Officer Report:

Past President: Bob Maynard

- Present/No report

Photographer: Stella Wood

- Not present/No report

Webmaster: Gloria Reiffer

- The website is up to date, and operational.
- Gloria is waiting on the SSL certificate.

Facebook Moderator: Dave Voss

- Not present/No report

Zoom Facilitator: Kyle Felts

- Camera system at Delhi was acting up, so Kyle will troubleshoot to determine cause.

Quartermaster: Randy Putmon

- Not present/No report

Sergeant at Arms: Geofrey Cradit

- Not present/No report

NCM Ambassador: Casey Mulvany

- Casey asked if the club wanted to do a parking lot banner during the convention? There are two options. The first is for our club to create our own banner that we can take with us at the end of the convention. This costs $500.00. The other option is to do a club sponsorship that included two lines on a banner for a cost of $250.00.

Historian: Sue Keith

- Not present/No report

Hearts & Flowers: Ann Voss

- Not present/No report

Chaplain: Ward Harris

- Not present/No report

Board Meeting Minutes

7:10 New Business:

- Autocross Prep was mostly discussed above, but Kyle shared that the Region is considering purchasing a timing trailer similar to what CCM has.
- Blessings Prep: Discussed moving the event over by the Texas Roadhouse in Holt, but plans are too far along to change from City Limits in Mason. May consider this new venue for next year.
- Funkhana-Locations? Kyle had a discussion with the Holt Texas Roadhouse staff. They had a few suggestions that included:
  - Purchasing Texas Roadhouse fund raising gift cards that we could put in goodie bags at our car shows.
  - We discussed moving the Blessings car show to this location, but this was tabled until next year.
  - The next option is to do a "Flyer Dinner" on a Monday or Tuesday night. During these dinners, participants get a discount for presenting the flyer. We could do a "Meet Capital City Corvette Club" to try to increase awareness of our club in the local area.
  - Two new Funkhana locations were discussed. One was in the vicinity of Texas Roadhouse, and the other was in the parking lot adjacent to City Limits in Mason, which was previously Andrews Chevrolet. Bob Maynard was asked to see if he can find out who currently owns that lot. The previous site discussed was Lansing Christian, and we need to discuss a date with them in the near future if we wish to use this site.
  - The Board briefly discussed whether or not we want to do a funkhana rather than the rally at the Blessings car show with no decision reached.
- 65th Plans/Picture/Dates:
  - Tim will contact Shaheen's to begin setting up a date in early June.
  - There was a suggestion to partner with Shaheen's on a 65th Anniversary polo shirt because if we work with them, we may be able to use the official Corvette logos, which otherwise can't be used by the club.
  - We have a band lined up for the celebration to be held at Maynard's.
- CMN – The current plan is to have a car show at Shaheen's probably on Sep 10th.

7:20 Other Business:

Member Comments

- There was a suggestion to add a microphone for the Board meetings so that those who Zoom in can hear better. Tom Faupel will bring one to try during the next Board meeting.
- There was a summary of important dates for 2023:
  - The bowling event is being planned for Apr 2nd.
  - The Regional Banquet is scheduled for Apr 16th.
  - The Club's Awards Banquet is tentatively scheduled for Apr 22nd.
  - The Vermontville parade is scheduled for Apr 29th.
  - The 65th celebration at Shaheen's will be on Jul 22nd and the 65th celebration at Maynard's will be on Jul 29th.

7:30 Adjournment at 7:33. Motion by Kevin Mead, seconded by Tom Faupel.

CLUB POINT TOTALS

PARTICIPATION POINTS FOR 2023

Nothing to report at this time

"If you would've hit a regular car I would've given you a ticket. Since you hit a Corvette, you'll get 10 years."

2024 Corvette E-Ray First Ride: A Vette like no other

Story by Eric Weiner

It's a cold, damp day on Black Lake. The 40-degree weather and intermittent drizzle at GM's Milford Proving Grounds skid pad are not ideal for the hard launch of a sports car. Bill Wise, the development engineer at the wheel, is not concerned.

"Do you get motion sickness?" he says. "Because with launch control, this thing seriously takes off." The growl of a Chevy small-block rises in pitch before a plateau, ready to let loose when Bill releases the brake pedal.

"Not in a car," I say.

Those words are barely out of my mouth before all four of the E-Ray's wheels hook up. Butterflies hit my stomach. The acceleration is surprisingly aggressive—ruthless and immediate, like a Tesla, but made stranger, a moment later, by the combination of V-8 roar and space-age electric motor whine.

The rate at which scenery melts does not decrease with each shift snapped off by the gearbox. I am simply pressed further into my seat. As Wise stomps on the brakes, the E-Ray converts kinetic energy to electricity, then feeds that juice to the 1.9-kWh battery pack nestled in the tunnel between the seats. We come to a halt.

The faint whine of an electric motor, the crazed four-wheel clawing at launch—these are strange phenomena for a Corvette. Like watching Rambo in Italian—familiar characters, but a language you've never heard them speak.

The E-Ray is unlike any other Corvette. It is the first Vette with all-wheel drive. The first to use an electric drive motor. And the first to see 60 mph, from rest, in just 2.5 seconds. That's a tenth faster than the 670-hp Corvette Z06. The 1500-hp Bugatti Chiron, with its four turbos, sixteen cylinders, eight liters, and $3 million price, does the same job in 2.4 seconds. The E-Ray will start at $104,295.

Many sports-car fans raise their eyebrows at the H-word. "Hybrid" can bring to mind a bean-shaped commuter like the Toyota Prius, but the E-Ray is nothing of the sort. More appropriate comparisons would be the McLaren P1, the Porsche 918, or the Acura NSX—performance cars of unquestionable focus, capable of harnessing electricity for performance and drivability, not just fuel economy or reduced emissions. It helps to remember that the E-Ray was baked into the development of the eighth-generation Corvette (C8) from day one, so the car is no afterthought.

General Motors claims for the E-Ray a total of 655 system horsepower, a combination of the 495-hp LT2 V-8 driving the rear axle (essentially the engine from the current Corvette Stingray), and the 160-hp, 125 lb-ft battery-electric arrangement powering the front. Both front wheels are driven by a single electric motor, via an open differential. From the right seat, the E-Ray's front wheels seem to respond instantly to the throttle pedal. If the driver asks for more than 30 percent throttle or requests more than 1.5 g of straight-line acceleration, the V-8 wakes up.

The E-Ray shares its wide body, its suspension setup, and its Magnetic Ride Control dampers with the Z06. Several engineers, however, told me that the former car's development brief was completely

different: all-weather capable and angled more toward daily driving, while offering performance significantly beyond that of the base Stingray (and within spitting distance of the Z06's ability).

"This thing is a champ in the snow, even on the standard all-season tires," Wise says. "And here, on those same tires, you can take advantage of so much mechanical grip."

He shows me. We knife toward the middle of the 67-acre Black Lake, entering an autocross-like cone course at roughly 90 mph. "This was never slated as an out-and-out track car, like the Z06, but it is just as capable around a race track."

Wise stabs the throttle and cranks the steering left at the entry to a long sweeper. As the E-Ray scrubs speed, he initiates what feels, at first, like a rear-drive Corvette slide. He adjusts the car's angle of attack with his right foot, the steering wheel hardly moving. Just before the turn's apex, the E-Ray begins to briskly accelerate toward corner exit, never breaking the slide.

I'm at a loss. "Damn, Bill."

"Only five minutes behind the wheel, you'd be doing the exact same thing, corner after corner," he says. "It's that approachable."

Wise keeps driving. The course changes, the long sweepers replaced by a series of quick direction changes. The E-Ray negotiates the tighter corners with ease, flat and stable, the nose quickly taking a set.

Hybrids often suffer from mass bloat, a ballooning of curb weight over similar internal-combustion-only models. A visit to Milford to meet a preproduction Corvette usually means hearing someone in Chevrolet engineering declare that "every gram has to earn its way onto the car."

This approach is common in the development of high-performance cars, but the Corvette team does it better than most. The engineers there seem to take joy in justifying each component or material down to the tiniest detail. The battery, for example, is not from GM's Ultium family, where the hardware and its controls are generally larger and storage-optimized for long range. The E-Ray's lighter, pouch-type LG battery was better suited to the car's performance focus, its front axle's demands for frequent and significant energy flow.

That axle system adds about 260 pounds of curb weight. Mass-reduction efforts to offset that gain include standard carbon-ceramic brakes and a lighter, lithium-ion chemistry for the gas engine's 12-volt battery. The electric drive unit's housing is magnesium, with associated fasteners and the bottom of the drive battery's housing in aluminum. The aluminum brace between the front shock-tower tops is claimed to genuinely improve steering feel at speed, helping compensate for the slight changes in front suspension geometry required by the packaging of that front axle.

Important, too, is how little the added mass shifts balance forward. Thirty-nine-point-four percent of the Z06's weight sits up front, 60.6 percent in the rear. The E-Ray shifts that distribution by only 1.5 percent, to 41/59.

We'll feature a full drive of the E-Ray on these pages soon. In the meantime, from the passenger seat, the car holds promise. It feels meaningfully more exciting and interesting than the Stingray yet more tractable and comfortable than the monstrous Z06.

By switching the Corvette to a mid-engine layout, after decades of the engine up front, the C8 vaulted America's sports car to new dynamic heights while realizing a dream envisioned by some of the car's early creators. An all-wheel-drive Corvette with a battery and an electric motor was not on the minds of those men, but I suspect they'd find this car a triumph of engineering.

Perhaps even more than the Stingray or the Z06, the E-Ray reflects the technology and ingenuity of the current moment. Just thinking about the ride gives me butterflies all over again.

2024 Chevrolet Corvette E-Ray

- **Price:** $104,295 (coupe)
- **Powertrain:** 6.2-liter V-8, eight-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission; 1.9-kWh pouch-type lithium-ion battery, permanent-magnet electric motor
- **Horsepower:** 655 from total system (V-8: 495 hp @ 6450 rpm); (e-motor: 160 hp)
- **Torque:** (V-8: 470 lb-ft @ 5150 rpm); (e-motor: 125 lb-ft)
- **Layout:** All-wheel-drive, two-seat targa-top coupe or convertible
- **Weight:** 3774 pounds
- **EPA-rated fuel economy:** TBA
- **0–60 mph:** 2.5 seconds
- **1/4-mile:** 10.5 seconds @ 130 mph

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