

VETTECETERA



Northern California Chapter's Newsletter for the Corvette Enthusiast

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2026 NCC Officers

Chair	Jeff Blakeslee	707 396-3842	JeffB@BlakesleeElectric.com
Vice Chair	Sharyl Ingham	510 420-0968	sharylingham@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandy Houck	707 257-7077	sandyhouck@aol.com
Treasurer	Chris Moore	415 939-6581	chrismoore@gmail.com
Membership	Sharyl Ingham	510 420-0968	sharylingham@gmail.com
Judging Chairman	Mike Ingham	510 420-0968	michael.ingham248@gmail.com
Judging School Coordinator	Bob Grauer	925-922-2207	rob@inanutshell.com
Newsletter Editor	Mike Ingham	510 420-0968	michael.ingham248@gmail.com
Webmaster	Chris Moore	415 939-6581	chrismoore@gmail.com
Region IX Director	Mike Ingham	510 420-0968	michael.ingham248@gmail.com
Road Tour Coordinator	Ken Albers	707 631-2756	1kenalbers@gmail.com
Sponsorship/Raffle Coord.	Glorie McNay	530-662-7951	gloriemcnay@gmail.com

NCC/NCRS Website <http://www.ncrs.org/ncc/>



Chairman's Message – Classic Simplicity

By Jeff Blakeslee

Recently one of the RAM 1500 work trucks at our company suffered a head gasket failure. This truck has a 3.6L VVT V6 engine with double overhead cams. This is the second time it has had a failed head gasket. The first time the truck had 84K miles on it, and we had the heads, and head gaskets replaced, along with the water pump and timing chains. Now with 180K miles we have the same failure. But hey, the replacement parts lasted longer than the factory parts by 20K miles!

With all these miles on it, the company did not want to invest another \$8,000 to do this work again and we decided to liquidate the truck. However, outside of the high mileage, the truck was in near perfect condition, and had been driven by an office employee mostly up and down the freeway between Santa Rosa and the Bay Area. So, in a moment of weakness, I

decided to buy the truck for the bargain price of \$1000 and make repairing it a project for my oldest son and myself. After all, he needs a new truck that will be a reasonable cost to insure and license, and I look forward to spending the time with him. What could go wrong?

Well as (should have been) expected, the first problem was getting my schedule and my son's schedule aligned. He is very busy at work, plus a social life with its own agenda, and meanwhile the truck is sitting in my garage taking up space where a '69 Corvette should be. After a few weeks reality set in, and I decided to get started on my own. I thought, "I have done many head gaskets and this won't take long".

As it turns out, these modern, variable valve timing, dual overhead cam engines are a little different from working on a classic engine. So after about an hour of staring at the engine with a somewhat blank expression, I decided to subscribe to the AllData.com resource manuals. Then, after a couple hours reading and ordering special tools, I realized I would be ready to start this project "next week".

At this point I have the intake manifold and heads off, both timing chains and tensioners, the oil pan, the oil pump, the catalytic converters, and the water pump all removed. I have had the heads surfaced and all the parts are in hand for reassembly. The lower end of the engine looks strong so I'm 85% confident that we will get it back together and my son might get another 100K miles out of it.

I'm about 20 hours into the project and have not started reassembly. The book says 19.5 hours for a trained mechanic, which it appears I'm not. As a result of this effort, I have a new respect for working on these modern engines. And while I will save a lot of money doing this myself, the \$8,000 I was quoted is making a lot more sense – maybe even a bargain. On the upside, working on my next Corvette restoration with its "Classic Simplicity" is looking more appealing all the time. I'll report on the success or failure of the truck project next month.

Food For Thought

By Sharyl Ingham

Let's bid farewell to 2025 and welcome the fresh start of 2026! I'm sure we all share the same dreams and aspirations for this new year. We're ready to embrace the possibilities

with optimism, love, and a positive outlook. Cheers to you, and a happy New Year!

Back when we were growing up, especially during the holidays, life was so much easier. We'd just hop in the car with our parents and head to our relatives' houses, have dinner, and spend quality time together. Nowadays, it's a total nightmare! With all the extended families involved, the holidays can drag on for days, making sure we see everyone. Are you nodding in agreement? Don't get me wrong, I absolutely adore spending time with our adult grandchildren. Their time is precious, so I'm just accepting it as "it is what it is" and grateful they still want to spend time with us.

The two main federal holidays in January kick off with New Year's Day on Thursday, January 1st, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19th.

Guess what? Arthur McNay's birthday is on January 8th, and he is NCC's oldest active member! Congrats, Art!

Best wishes to the other NCC members celebrating their January birthdays, starting with Dave Solomon, January 14th; David Slikkers, January 18th; Margie Swezey, January 26th; and Janice Hamilton, January 28th.

Just a friendly reminder that your NCC membership dues are due now. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so. Also, a big thank you to those who have already renewed! I usually give a month's grace period before I remove names from the NCC database.

Here is another friendly reminder that our Chapter's Spring Meet is happening in April in San Rafael. The NCC Board is really hoping that many of you will attend. We believe that our Chapter's success is all thanks to your participation, so we'd love to see you there!

Show and share your kindness always!

See you on Zoom on January 13th.

1956-57 Fasteners for Windshield Retainer T-bolts

By Joe LeMay in Joe's Garage

One of the items that is obscure on the 1956-57 Corvette is the fastener that attaches to the windshield T-bolt. There are eight of these that can be seen under the dashboard. These are listed in the 1956-57 JM on page 32 (Under

Instrument Panel). "Fastener check; windshield is secured with one-piece flange/nuts (nickel size flange) with dumdom underneath, .." The 58-60 and 61-62 JM does not contain information for the windshield T-bolts fasteners.

I have looked in the Assembly Manuals that I have access to. The 1957 AIM (Section B, Sheet 5) shows plain washer, split washer, nut. These are the same fasteners listed in the 1959 and 60 AIM. For 1961, the windshield T-bolts are attached with 9417553 nuts. I cannot find a reference for that PN. The T-bolts are threaded for 12-24 nuts. These flange/nuts are also listed as free spinning washer nuts or spinner nuts in fastener catalogues. They have a conical attached washer.



Washer nut installed under a '57 dash.

After removing these fasteners on my car, I observed this. Under the dash in the area where the windshield T-bolts poke through, there is light fiberglass shade that is about a nickel sized diameter, then slightly darker fiberglass shade. I have also observed this shading on a December '56 Duntov car and a '58 fuel car. This is a giveaway of what was there for many years. Both cars have had their windshields replaced and have new hardware that is plain washer, split washer, nut.

When I obtained my car, the windshield had been replaced. It had the T-bolts attached by free spinning washer nuts. I replaced the windshield and lost those nuts. Here is how to obtain them.

I found the washer nuts as part of the 55-57 Chevy Paint Divider Moulding Clip. These are from Classic Industries (Classic Industries PN 748629). The 1955-57 Paint Divider Molding

Clip Set; 6-piece set comes with 12-24 free spinning washer nuts. Their website says they replace GM nuts 4646559 and 4644959. If you order either of these GM nuts by PN, ensure they are 12-24, as 10-24 is a more common size. When installing these fasteners, tighten them to 30 in-lb.



Classic Industries Paint Divider Clip & Nut Set.



Close-up of Classic Industries washer nut.

Wanting to get additional information for other C1 cars, I contacted the team leaders. The 1953-55 team leader said the same washer nut was used on 1953-55 windshield T-bolts. The free spinning flange appears less cone shaped and flatter than the one pictured.

The 1958-60 team leader said he has seen original cars with both washer nuts, and with flat washer, lock washer, nut. They are 12-24 as the same T-bolt was used throughout solid axle production. They were also cad plated, not dichromate as shown. The 1961-62 team leader said 61-62 is the same as 58-60.

Welcome New Members

Please join with me in welcoming new NCRS and NCC members:
Robert and Carlie Borba who live in Willits, CA.

NCC Spring Judging Meet

By Mike Ingham

Our spring judging meet is scheduled for April 24th and 25th at the beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. A registration form may be found later in this issue of the Vettecetera, but please save yourself \$10 by registering online beginning January 1st. This will be a 5-point meet with Operations judging and a judging school on Friday afternoon and the completion of flight judging on Saturday. We look forward to seeing you and your Corvettes there.

Burma-Shave

THE BOY WHO GETS
HIS GIRL'S APPLAUSE
MUST ACT, NOT LOOK
LIKE SANTA CLAUS

BURMA-SHAVE 1948

NCC Magnetic Name Badges

We no longer get free shipping when ordering NCC name badges, so the price is now \$20.00 if you need a replacement.

Mass Mailing Clarification

We are utilizing NCRS's Mass Mailing feature to distribute the link to the Vettecetera each month, as well as other NCRS related e-mails from other people. Please do NOT respond to the e-mail, respond to the person who authors the e-mail.

Technical Articles Wanted

If you have been thinking about writing up some restoration project you have completed, please do so and submit it for publication. We can all benefit from one another's learning's. Submit your article as a Word document, and any accompanying pictures as .jpg files.

Copyrights

Articles appearing in the Vettecetera are the sole property of their author(s) and may not be reproduced without the express written permission of the author.

Pertinent Information

Send newsletter articles to Mike Ingham by email: michael.ingham248@gmail.com It needs to be received **by the 25th** of the previous month to make publication.

NCC Dues

NCC dues are \$30 per year. Please start paying via PayPal. If needed, a membership form may be found on the last page of the Vettecetera. When you have changes (e.g., e-mail address, Corvettes owned) please send those changes to me via e-mail at: sharylingham@gmail.com Thanks.

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings occur on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are being held via Zoom, and the Zoom link is distributed to all Chapter members on the preceding Monday.

Car For Sale

2003 Corvette Coupe, Museum Delivery, Torch Red / Black interior, 14,926 miles, automatic transmission, all original, no modifications, 1-owner, always garaged. Asking \$27,500. Contact Max Hamilton (831) 229-9036

Cars Wanted

Hello fellow NCC Members. I am in search of a C2 roadster, and I thought posting here might be a good way to find one. I'm looking for any year C2 and I would consider any colors other than Yellow or Silver or White, unless they had a red interior. Must be a 4-speed. I am good with any small block (except a fuelie) and/or maybe the 390HP big block if '66 or '67.

I am also looking for a low mile, all original C6 Z06. Could include a Ron Fellows or "427 Convertible". I would consider any color. Looking for something with maximum 20K miles. (Prefer 5K-10K miles.) Contact Dave Domenichini at 408-691-3283 or dave@drdcon.com

Parts For Sale

C3 Parts

Side-exhaust pipes for a big block 1969 Corvette. Exhaust pipes have about 90,000 miles on them. They are completely intact with surface rust on the front pipes and minor oxidation on the chambered sections. \$500 Early '69 jack, dated 8M, plus lug wrench, \$200. Contact Mike Ingham at 510-420-0968 or michael.ingham248@gmail.com

C2 Parts

NOS rear valance panel for '66 and '67 with underbody exhaust. GM 3874799. Embossed "DT 40 1868 70 on" inside surface. Minor shelf wear, but no cracks or damage. Very nice NOS GM part. Local pickup only, within 45-miles of San Jose, CA. \$500 firm. Gary Beaupre 408-250-0370

C1 Parts

1956-only 924 windshield wiper motor, restored, runs perfectly, \$400

Two spare tire trunk boards: one original 5-ply, 3/8" thick, with posi and jack instruction labels that are largely illegible; and one repro that is in perfect condition.

1956-1960 soft-top frame w/vinyl top. Frame is in like new condition, vinyl is excellent but has one small tear (~1/4") in passenger rear side, rear window is excellent but does not have "VINYLITE" stamping. \$2900

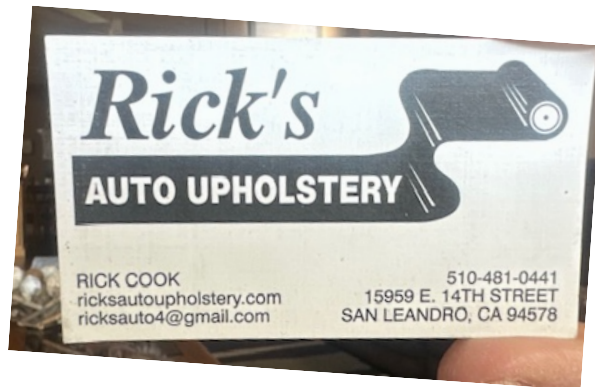
Contact Mike Ingham at 510-420-0968 or michael.ingham248@gmail.com

Tools For Sale

Auto Rotisserie - Cost \$1,400 plus freight. Used once, sell for \$1,000 with much extra tubing. Gantry Crane - cost \$1,200 plus freight, sell for \$800 with free electric hoist. Contact John Tidwell at 916-201-6061 or sampanjohn@earthlink.net

Business Card Ads

Business card ads are free for NCC members. Please send your business card to Mike Ingham, 6047 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618-1802.



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	2026 Event Calendar 	
January 13 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
January 15 th – 17 th	Florida Regional	Melbourne, FL
February 10 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
March 10 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
April 14 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
April 16 th – 18 th	“Show Me” Regional	Springfield, MO
April 24 th – 25 th	NCC Spring Judging Meet*	San Rafael, CA
May 12 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
June 4 th – 6 th	Pittsburgh Tri-State Regional	Altoona, PA
June 9 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
July 26 th – 30 th	NCRS National Convention	Charleston, SC
August 11 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
September 8 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
September 17 th – 19 th	Inter Mountain Regional	Spokane, WA
October 13 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
October 22 nd – 24 th	Texas Regional	Frisco, TX
November 10 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom
December 8 th	NCC Meeting	Via Zoom

***Registration form included in this Vettecetera.**

NCRS Northern California Chapter Spring Judging Meet Registration Friday/Saturday, April 24/25, 2026

NCRS members and their guests are invited to attend NCC's Spring Judging Meet to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael, CA 94903 1-(800) 362-2779 Rooms are available at \$179, plus tax. The group code is NCC.

General Meet Information

Jeff Blakeslee 707-396-3843 JeffB@BlakesleeElectric.com

Judging Information

Mike Ingham 510-420-0968 michael.ingham248@gmail.com

Event Schedule - Friday, 4/24

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm - Registration
2:00 pm – All cars must be in place on show field.
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Flight Judging - Operations
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Judging School

Event Schedule – Saturday, 4/25

7:30 am – Registration
8:00 am – Coffee & Donuts
8:15 am – Judges/Owners Meetings
8:30 am – finish - Flight Judging

NCRS Membership Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Companion: _____

Non-NCRS Guest _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Note: Register online at www.NCRS.org starting January 1 and save \$10 on your family registration fee.

Event Registration

_____ Family Registration Fee (required for all registrants)

\$50

_____ Guest Fee (non-NCRS member)

@\$20 Each \$ _____

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE QUALITY JUDGING, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CARS JUDGED. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO CARS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN JUDGED BEFORE, AND IN ORDER OF DATE REGISTRATION WAS RECEIVED

Cut-off date: April 10, 2026

CORVETTE REGISTRATION (One Registration form per car) (Circle ONE) Driven / Trailered

Year _____ CID/HP _____ Coupe _____ Convertible _____ Complete VIN _____

Ext. Color _____ Int. Color _____ Material (Circle ONE) Cloth / Vinyl / Leather

For C2 & Newer Body Build Date _____ Body # _____ Paint Code _____ Trim Code _____

Note: Corvette registrations must include a copy of title or current DMV registration, plus a copy of current insurance certificate.

_____ Flight Judging Entry @\$150 \$ _____

_____ Open Class Judging Entry 1953 – 2026) _____ Stock _____ Modified @\$75 \$ _____

_____ Sportsman Entry @\$40 \$ _____

_____ Special Display Bowtie – Duntov – McLellan – Hill – Wallace - Crossed Flags (circle one) FREE

Note: All registrants must pay family registration fee. TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: NCC/NCRS and send completed application to:

Sharyl Ingham, 6047 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618-1802 510-420-0968 sharylingham@gmail.com

No refunds after April 10, 2026

JUDGING/TABULATION PARTICIPATION (Check if needed: ☐ Please see reverse side for second judge/tab participant information.)

Name _____ Judging/Tabbing Level _____

I would like to judge: 53-62 _____ 63-67 _____ 68-82 _____ 84-96 _____ 97-04 _____ 05-07 _____ OC 53-26 _____ I would like to tabulate: _____

Chassis _____ Exterior _____ Interior _____ Mechanical _____ Operations _____

Anyone attending this event, whether you bring a Corvette or not, must register and sign the following **Hold Harmless Agreement**.

I AGREE to insure my vehicle and property against loss, damage and liability and to provide proof of such insurance to NCRS at time of registration.

I AGREE to assume the risk of any and all damages or injury and to indemnify and hold harmless NCRS, its officers, directors, agents, employees, Chapters and event workers for any acts or omissions that may result in the theft, damage or destruction of my property or injury to me or others occurring during, or as a consequence of this event, wherever located.

I AGREE to abide by the NCRS Policy on Drugs and Alcohol. The use of illegal drugs is prohibited by anyone attending an NCRS event. The use of alcohol is prohibited by anyone participating in an NCRS event (includes while on the judging field, participating in driving tests and/or road tours), except during social events.

Click here to read the complete NCRS Hold Harmless Rules & Regulations for Events (<https://www.ncrs.org/home/hold-harmless.php>)

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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SHARYL INGHAM at 6047 Lawton Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618

ANNUAL DUES: January 1st through December 31st, **\$30; now payable via PayPal through the NCRS website at: <https://www.ncc.ncrs.org/>**

scroll to the bottom black box

click on membership

click on renew chapter

next choose chapter

follow the prompts

NCRS Membership Number: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____
(From *Driveline* or *Restorer* Address Label)

You must be an NCRS Member to be a Chapter member.

Check as Applicable:

_____ New Member

_____ Renewal

_____ Change of Address

Please Print or Type

Name _____ Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____

Spouse _____ Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____

Street _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Please list the Year(s) and Model(s) of your Corvette(s)

—

This information will be published in the Chapter's roster.

_____ Name

_____ Birthdate

_____ Street Address

_____ City

_____ Phone

_____ NCRS#

_____ E-mail