



## ODCC Newsletter – Spring 2024

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### What's Happening

Monthly meetings are normally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 at the Bungalow Lakehouse (46116 Lake Center Plaza, Sterling, VA). For more details and to register for events, see the [Events](#) menu on the [ODCC website](#) at and click on [Event Calendar](#). Please check the website often, as new events may be added at any time. Don't forget to check [Cars and Coffee](#) for non-ODCC events you may enjoy.

### Upcoming ODCC Events:

- **04 May 2024: Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Parade.** Save the date! ODCC will again participate in this fun event, and adjourn for a meal afterwards. Watch the website for additional details.
- **05 May 2024: Maryland Spring Covered Bridge Tour & Lunch at Kountry Kitchen.** Visit three covered bridges followed by a fun lunch in Thurmont, MD.
- **19 May 2024: Cruise to Dot's Back Inn.** Join us for this fun trip to a place featured on Diners, Drive Ins, and Dives! It's been a while since our last visit, but it's always a great trip.
- **01 June 2024: Cruise-In and Wine Tasting at The Winery at LaGrange.** Always a favorite – a Corvettes only wine tasting. Bring a picnic lunch or buy your lunch there.
- **02 June 2024: NVCC Chantilly Corvette Show at Pohanka Chevrolet in Chantilly.** Non-ODCC event; see the [Events](#) calendar for details.
- **20 June 2024: Encore Choral Concert, Chestertown, MD.** Join us for a scenic drive with a lunch stop, then a performance by the Encore Choral Rocks ensemble featuring one of our very own ODCC members!
- **20 June 2024: Purcellville Cannons Baseball.** Free admission with ODCC flyer.
- **04 July 2024: Leesburg 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.** ODCC will again have a group in this great annual parade. Spaces are limited!
- **26 – 28 July and 02 – 04 August 2024: Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix at PITT Racetrack / Schenley Park Street Circuit.** One of the most unique automotive experiences ever!

## From the President's Garage...

**Dear ODCC Members,**

Spring has finally arrived, and I am looking forward to warm months to enjoy Club activities and continuing to be a part of the ODCC family. For this Newsletter, I wanted to say how grateful I am to have been able to serve as the President and grow a positive relationship with fellow Corvette enthusiasts. I have also enjoyed watching the community grow and seeing that we are also starting to work with other Corvette clubs in the area on different initiatives and activities. It's been super cool to build these organizational relationships. As we move forward for the rest of this year, I ask that all of you remember what the true spirit is for our club. It is simply that we are a car club, and we want to have fun, enjoy the social aspect of the events, and most importantly share our enthusiasm for the Corvette. Again, we are a car club and as we move forward for the rest of the year let's keep this in mind and work towards keeping our true spirit in focus.

Please watch our events page as new activities are being added regularly. In addition, if you want to meet with fellow Club members to just have some fun, feel free to request an addition to the events for your idea. For this summer I plan to add a few pop-up events to meet up in Leesburg for ice cream on a warm evening.

So, get the Corvette out of storage and enjoy all that horsepower!

Best,

**Scott**

**ODCC President**



*A Corvette is an automobile, the rest are just cars!*



## 2024 Winter Events

Following are brief synopses of ODCC and other events in which Members have participated since the last Newsletter. Please see the ODCC website for additional pictures (Photo Gallery link from the home page, or click here [ODCC Photo Gallery](#), with videos at [ODCC Videos](#)). If you have photos, send them (or links using Google Drive or Dropbox) to the ODCC Webmaster ([Webmaster@OldDominionCorvetteClub.org](mailto:Webmaster@OldDominionCorvetteClub.org)) who can upload them to a Club Album (for Club events only), or you can post non-Club activity photos (like photos of your car) to the gallery in a "Member Album" you create (log in, go to the Members tab, and select "Upload Photos". Also, check out the [ODCC Facebook page](#) and the [Old Dominion Corvette Club Facebook group](#) (it is a private group, so you must request to join).

## The DC Auto Show (19 – 28 January 2024)

Thanks go out to Corvette Club of America for inviting members of Old Dominion Corvette Club and Northern Virginia Corvette Club to join them at this year's DC Auto Show. Six ODCC members had their Corvettes on display. Jared and Roxi posted some pictures and Al posted a short video of our members' cars that were on display on our Facebook Group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415874211937421> ([20+](https://www.facebook.com/groups/415874211937421)) [Old Dominion Corvette Club | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/415874211937421) (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/415874211937421>).



## Annual Banquet at Tuscarora Mill (17 February)

It was a joy to see so many ODCC members attend the Annual Winter Banquet on February 17th. The Club again chose to hold the event in Leesburg in the Wine Cellar at Tuscarora Mill. We had 44 ODCC members attend, and all enjoyed the chance to have fun and socialize!

The Club subsidized the cost of the event to keep the cost per person down and also covered the cost of the appetizers served during Happy Hour, and there was a cash bar with two bartenders. Before we took our seats for dinner, our Club President welcomed everyone, provided opening remarks, and then presented two President's Awards, a new award to recognize our volunteers. One was to our Newsletter Editor for her outstanding support in creating the ODCC Newsletter for everyone to enjoy. She puts a lot of effort into this publication each quarter, and her hard work and dedication are worthy of recognition. In addition, the hard work on this Newsletter helps to showcase the Club's activities and serves as a historical record of events for the club. The second President's Award was provided to our prior Cruise-In Coordinator in recognition of his support and services as chair of the ODCC Cruise-In and also for continuing to serve as the Club's Ambassador to the National Corvette Museum. Both of them received gift cards from local restaurants. Everyone was then able to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and enjoy socializing with their fellow Club members.







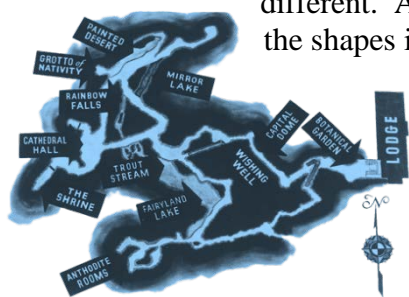
**A good time was had by all!**



## Skyline Caverns Cruise (24 March)

On Sunday, 24 March, we kicked off the year with our first event, which was well attended. Our Events Coordinator led a cruise to Front Royal, VA, and a great visit to Skyline Caverns, followed by a nice lunch afterward at Vibrissa Beer and Restaurant (an ODCC favorite). Everyone met in Gainesville, with 18 members and guests in 12 Corvettes, then headed up the nicely winding Route 688 (affectionately known as the “Tail of the Lizard” to ODCC regulars). Given the near freezing temps (33° F leaving Gainesville!) and the number of cars with summer tires, the group held speeds down a bit from what they might have done in warmer weather, but still had an enjoyable drive. The group, including one Northern Virginia Corvette Club (NVCC) guest, then turned onto Route 55 and cruised through Front Royal and on to the caverns. Thanks for joining us, Michael. Please tell your NVCC buddies how much fun you had!

Skyline Caverns are very cool. Each of the three caverns ODCC has visited in the last three years is very different. At Skyline, you can really see how the water flowed through the rock and carved the shapes in the cave. While Luray may be more spectacular, Skyline is much more



natural, and is unique among the three by having multiple streams running through the caverns, compete with a waterfall (and a trout pond). It's also one of only about six sites in the world to contain anthodite mineral formations, which only form within vacuum. They are long needle-like crystals in clusters that radiate outward and look a bit like a flower, hence the name,

which comes from the Greek *anthos*, which means flower. Everyone, from the youngest among us to the oldest really enjoyed the tour (thanks for being a great guide, Beckett!). Steve's son pronounced it “cool.”



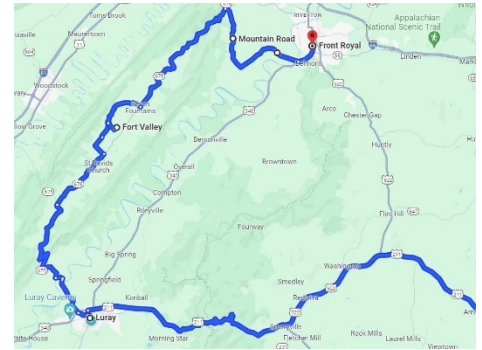
Following the tour and some time perusing the gift shop, everyone headed over to Vibrissa Beer in downtown Front Royal for a fun and tasty lunch. Really good burgers, chili, Reubens, and more. Oh, and some great beer, too!

Our cruises are always fun for everyone. Don't forget to join us for future events!



## Weekday Wanderers - Lunch Run to Front Royal (29 March)

Well, it's good to be flexible. The first Weekday Wanderers didn't go exactly as planned, but in the end it all worked out and the participants had a fun drive and a really good lunch. Four ODCC members and two NVCC guests headed out from Gainesville early Friday morning with plans to head up and over Skyline Drive at Thornton's Gap (a tremendously fun road on a weekday, when traffic is light) to Luray, and then wind their way north on a series of very winding back roads and into Front Royal for lunch.



*Original Route*

Well, they made it as far as Luray, only to discover the first road out of



*Revised Route*

Luray was in the mandatory evacuation area from the forest fires in the valley, and that road was closed. With no real alternative way north on that side of Skyline drive, they decided to head back over Thornton's Gap. No one complained about getting to drive that route twice! With time to kill before the restaurant was schedule to open, they continued east to Virginia Route 688 (AKA, "The Tail of the Lizard"), and took that north to Route 55, and then on into Luray. For a couple of the drivers, it was their first time on that road, and everyone enjoyed the spirited drive.

Finally arriving at the restaurant just as it was scheduled to open, our Wanderers found a sign on the door reading "Closed. Reopening April 1st!" Fortunately, Bob knew of another good lunch spot just a mile or so away. PaveMint Smokin' Taphouse to the rescue, where all had a delicious lunch.



Not the day that was planned, but all in all a good day, with good roads, good food, and good friends, and now we can reschedule the original route for later in the year! We hope you can join us for April's Weekday Wanderers cruise. Keep an eye out on our calendar for details, coming soon.



How do you get to be a Weekday Wanderer? Easy, just play hooky from work for a few hours and join the next weekday cruise!



## ODCC News of Note

### Ron Fellows Driving School

I met Gary at my first breakfast Member meeting, and he mentioned the Ron Fellows school. “What the heck is that?” I asked. He gave nothing but praise for the school and told me to do it. With the major discount for first time owners and being intimidated by the car, I went for it. Spoiler Alert – this will describe details so you will not be surprised if you attend!



Kevin at Ron Fellows Driving School

**Condos.** I attended school 6 – 7 March 2024. I typed “Ron Fellows” for the location in Apple maps. Boy was that wrong (use the name of the resort). I was turning circles up and down a stretch of road past the town. It felt like I was going to be on an episode of “Cops” for Nye County. The condo was clean and comfortable with a small mini kitchen, and was extremely convenient to the classrooms. You will be waking up to bugle calls of cold starts of the Corvettes. It was a sobering wakeup that you are really here and this is going to happen. I stayed two days. I slept in the condo the night before the first day, so there was no time pressure to unload luggage and make the first lesson at 8 AM.

**Dining.** Breakfast and lunch buffet was modest but good quality. Protein, sides, salad, and desserts. I went in town for dinners. I was happy with Teriyaki Madness.

**Car Assignment.** You are assigned the same car for the course unless there is a mechanical problem. (Note: they try to match you with a car similar to the one you own.) The class is split into three groups based on driving ability, as judged by the instructors. The groupings were fairly accurate based on the times established in the final autocross. Your group lines up each time in a staging area with your lead instructor.



**Classroom Sessions.** There are multiple classroom sessions that I won’t go into here, but they are all good. They include: Track Safety, Steps to Proper Cornering, Corvette Electronics, Driving Models, and Proper Cornering. All classroom instruction is provided between “seat time” events.

**Serpentine.** The Serpentine driving practice forced participants to look out the side windows to line up their path for the next turn. It included tight turns back straight across to other side. There were very few cones, and it was too abstract for me (I kept missing the cones), and there was no chalk on ground. They put a sun protector in the windshield so you are forced to use the side windows. It was intimidating, but it was slowed down and they gave you directions when going straight. A word of caution -- watch what you say (especially curse words), as the PDR records ALL the cabin sounds!!

**Change Lanes Wet Conditions.** The lane is wet where the braking zone occurs. The instructor points to the lane to change. We increased the speed each pass. I was chewed out for never activating ABS. The instructor notes that you will get in an accident, so have it on. I also learned to slam the brakes harder.

**Launch Control.** My best words of advice: try out launches in someone else’s car! We did three passes at 0 to 60 using Track Launch. They explained how to get the Track modes to access Launch. (I cannot remember

for the life of me how to get to that mode now.) We used preprogrammed Z modes. The instructor would just tell you to hit it once or twice depending on event. I was timid on the first runs, and the instructor said I let up on the gas before entering the brake zone. I finally punched it and was thrown to the back of the seat! It was dead straight. No fish tail. Now I have confidence in the C8 electronics and transmission!

**Skip Pad.** This driving event included a wet paddock with cones set up to perform figure eights. The instructor tells you when to punch the gas to get the rear to break loose. Your job is to get back in control of the car. I tried both understeering and oversteering, but I still didn't get the difference (maybe I'm a little slow). I was punching it too much, at times doing 360s, but it was still fun. Then we did the same exercise in "Weather" mode, and I was unable to get car to slide. It will give you the utmost confidence in C8s in wet weather!

**Track Sessions.** I read reviews of some folks saying there was not enough track time. I did not feel that way.



Track sessions were held each day. Basically, take a lesson, go back out on track. You will follow the leader for a lap and pull over to the right to allow the next person to follow. You get chewed out if you use a turn signal (ask me how I know!). The instructor judges your race line through the apexes. The instructor starts increasing the pace to see at what level you can keep up. You can drive at your own speed – just have fun! I recommend learning to change gears and not stay in 4th; it adds to the sensory experience hearing the exhaust and gear change.

They had cones to measure when to break and change gears at end of straight. Braking? I was doing 75 and just letting off the gas. I saw a recorded lap of the instructor; I was NOT going fast enough to need brakes! I finally started punching it in the straight and had to apply brakes. The squeal of the tires pushing it around the corners was a thrill, but it was uncomfortable having my body slammed around on fast high turns.



You're supposed to run over the apex curbing, which felt odd at first. I found myself constantly holding my breath in turns. At times I was running up on the car in front of me trying to take turns at my speed. I took a deep breath, backed off to give them a huge lead, then back to my own speed. This is not a race.

**Review your Session.** You get one on one time with your instructor to review your best PDR lap. They provide tips on speed and path through apexes.





**Autocross Preliminary.** I had a bad experience in the past trying an autocross event. It was a sea of cones with no chalk marks. I tried walking it to memorize the path but just didn't get it. It was completely different here. The course is smaller with lots of cones and chalk to outline the course. Just get your butt through the course as fast as possible. The corners are much tighter, so you are constantly looking through side windows. Speed up at end of course and slam on the brakes in zone. I started activating the ABS in this event!

**Autocross Competitive.** On the final day, you get to push the car the hardest through the course. This time, there were lots of tires squealing and fish tailing. It started raining, and the rear end broke loose when I punched it to reach exit, but I recovered. (Learned my lessons in the course well!)

**Closing.** We had a surprise visit by Ron Fellows. We got a brief history of Ron's career, how the school began and continues to grow. The instructors come out for applause by the students. Nothing but smiles and cheers from our class. Then we went out for a class picture. They have a group tipping of all instructors at the end which was kind of awkward. I didn't know the etiquette for tipping, but felt like I'm getting a discount so I didn't want to appear cheap. I threw in \$50, but did not feel pressured to do it.

**Final Thoughts.** This school is a right of passage for new Corvette owners. It was a first-class operation from the beginning to the end. Take advantage of the discount for first time buyers. I still cannot believe I was there on the track at those speeds. My take-aways:

- Practice ABS brake activation in empty industrial park.
- Study the track diagram for the correct path in turns. I did NOT realize the lines were on the diagram. The instructor should have said to study race lines at night.)
- Get used to changing gears in manual mode before the school.

**Note:** For anyone interested in learning more about the course or seeing the course schedule and other schools available, check out the website at <https://www.springmountainmotorsports.com/calendar>.

## **Revving Back Up: A Return to the Old Dominion Corvette Club!**

After a brief hiatus, I am thrilled to announce that I am back and ready to dive headfirst into vibrant active membership of the Old Dominion Corvette Club (ODCC). It's been an incredible journey owning and showcasing my beloved 1978 C3 Anniversary Indy Pace Car, which garnered multiple "Best in Show" awards. Though parting with it this past fall was bittersweet, I take solace in knowing that its new owner shares the same passion and commitment to caring for this classic beauty.

But now, I stand on the brink of a new chapter in my Corvette journey as I proudly introduce my latest acquisition: a stunning, single-owner 2017 Arctic White Corvette Stingray convertible with only 6,450 miles! With sleek black wheels and a limited-edition Navy Blue top, paired with Navy Blue Napa leather seating, this C7 is a true marvel of engineering and design. It's a thrill to envision cruising the open roads with Carrie by my side, enjoying the wind in our hair and the engine's roar beneath us. This C7 will be my FOURTH Corvette (1987, 2008, 1978, and now this 2017)!



**Skip's New Ride!**



My return to ODCC comes after a nearly year-long absence, during which I was deeply involved in establishing a new Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post in Western Prince William County. As an Air Force Veteran, it has been incredibly fulfilling to play a role in preserving and protecting the legacy of those who served our country. One special event in my heart is the annual [Willing Warriors Vettes for Vets](#) annual show at the Warrior Retreat at Bull Run. It's a powerful convergence of my two passions: Corvettes and supporting our nation's veterans. ODCC's longstanding presence at this event exemplifies the Club's commitment to making a meaningful impact in our community.

As summer approaches, I eagerly anticipate reconnecting with each of the ODCC membership and engaging in the camaraderie and excitement that define our club. From car shows to leisurely drives through the countryside, each outing promises to be a memorable adventure, and with ODCC by my side, I know that the journey ahead will be nothing short of exhilarating!

So, here's to new beginnings, cherished memories, and the enduring bond of the Corvette community. Together, let's make every mile count.

## National Corvette Museum

### Ambassador Tidbits

If you have not been to the National Corvette Museum (NCM) since June 29, 2023, you will be in for quite a surprise during your next visit. The Museum's Skywall debuted with the opening of the *American Love Affair: 70 years of Corvette* exhibit. As part of the exhibit the Skydome received an immersive new video wall! The 300-foot-long video wall, built from over 850 LED panels stands 8 feet high around the base of the Skydome. With over 268 feet of adjoining panels, the Skywall is one of the largest immersive LED displays in the world, and it is in our Museum! The scope of the wall introduced a new challenge to the NCM staff – how do you use a structure this large to enhance the Museum visit and the special exhibits displayed in the Skydome? The NCM staff has worked with a company named Dreamland to develop content for the initial exhibit and started a continuous process that will add to the excitement of future exhibits.



<https://www.CorvetteMuseum.org/>

During the *70 Years of Corvette* exhibit, visitors watched as a larger-than-life Corvette raced around the Skydome on the screen. Skywall was a hit with visitors to the exhibit, and looking forward, the entire National



Corvette Museum staff is brimming with fresh, creative ideas for the wall. The Museum plans to continue enhancing their rotating and permanent exhibits incorporating state of the art technology to enhance the visitor experience and keeping the Museum fresh for Corvette clubs that make routine trips to Bowling Green. The recently departed NCM President and CEO, Sharon Brawner, stated, “At the core of the NCM mission is education: to educate worldwide audiences on the evolution of Corvette through collection, preservation, and celebration of its legacy. Skywall allows us to celebrate America’s Sports Car with the latest technology, keeping us relevant to all our audiences.”

These enhancements to our Museum will make our periodic cruises to Bowling Green even more exciting, making each visit a new experience. Remember that these enhancements are not free. Certainly, individual admissions and Corvette Store sales help, but they also require support from Museum members and the entire Corvette family. You can support our Museum by becoming a member. You can discover the membership option that is best for you by visiting <https://www.CorvetteMuseum.org/support/membership/> and becoming a supporter of the Museum’s capital improvement projects. If you have any questions about NCM membership or programs, please contact Bill, our ODCC NCM Ambassador.

## Upcoming NCM Events:

For additional details, see the NCM website at [Events - National Corvette Museum](https://www.CorvetteMuseum.org/explore/events/) (<https://www.CorvetteMuseum.org/explore/events/>).

- **25 – 27 April 2024: 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Michelin NCM Bash.** This event will include seminars by Michelin, Mobil 1, General Motors, Bowling Green Assembly Plant, and classroom sessions by GM certified Corvette Technician Paul Koerner. Enjoy guided road tours, NCM Choice car show, a live auction, vendors, and the announcement of the 2024 Corvette Hall of Fame Class.
- **29 – 31 August 2024: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / Caravan.** In 2024, the NCM marks the 30th Anniversary milestone. This event will focus on the people Corvette has brought together and take a look back on the Museum’s history and forward to the future! Registered participants can enjoy three days of activities in and around the Museum, special presentations, raffles, and more! Events will include the 2024 Corvette Hall of Fame Induction ceremony, Motorsports Park activities, wine and bourbon tastings, seminars / presentations, special displays and exhibits, classroom sessions with Corvette expert Paul Loerner, Corvette product demonstrations, demonstration drives and walk-arounds, Friday night banquet, Saturday night concert, and more. Event pre-registration (\$50 for Lifetime Members; \$60 for members; \$85 for non-members) closes on Monday, 05 August at 12 pm CDT, though Caravan registration will close on 08 July at 12 pm CDT. Much like 2019, this event will use shuttle buses to transport participants around the campus and parking lots. Parking, including ADA parking spaces, will be available at the NCM and the NCM Motorsports Park.
- **07 – 09 November 2024: Vets ‘n Vettes (presented by Mobil 1).** In 2008, the NCM began a tradition of honoring veterans with a new event, *Vets ‘n Vettes*. Since 2008, a wonderful tradition of honoring all who served has been established. *Vets ‘n Vettes* weekend will be held in conjunction with Veteran’s Day weekend November 7-9, 2024. More information, including the agenda and registration, will be available late Spring 2024.



## Update from the Vice President

Wow! It is already the end of March and Spring is rapidly approaching! We were blessed with a mild winter again which provided several opportunities to get our Corvettes on the road over the last quarter.

I was delighted to see the turnout for our Winter Banquet in February. We experienced some minor difficulties with the buffet line this time, but I think overall everyone had a good time, and we'll be looking at solutions for those problems. It was certainly nice to see and talk with everyone. Looking ahead into the Spring and Summer events I think we are going to have plenty of activities from which to choose. I counted some 25 events between now and the end of June that are already on the calendar. As we "ramp up" for the warm weather activities, it brings to mind event articles for the newsletter. I know I certainly enjoy reading about the ones I have been unable to attend. Many thanks to all the contributors who have provided articles and pictures of our activities. If you wish to contribute there is a "check box" on the registration page of the website. You don't have to be either a best-selling author or professional photographer. A short description of who was there, and how well the event was enjoyed, or even some bullets about the event are great. So are cell phone pictures. The newsletter editor can flesh it out and ensure you are listed as the contributor (the article by-line).

I want to extend a warm welcome to our three new members who have joined since our Winter Newsletter edition. Please be sure to introduce yourselves and welcome them to the Club when you see them.

As you all know, we are moving the annual All Corvette Cruise-In for this year to October which should provide much needed relief from the August heat. Bomnin Chevrolet has agreed to the change and put us on their calendar for 6 October 2024. Even though we are delaying the event by a few months, it's not too soon to start preparations and the Cruise-In Committee is already working hard on initial planning. Many thanks to Gary for volunteering to lead this year's effort. We will be looking soon to engage more volunteers to assist in the preparations and we are fleshing out the Cruise-In Standard Operation Procedures to document all the steps for preparing and executing a successful event.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the events this Spring and Summer.

**Dennis**  
**ODCC Vice President**





## 2024 ODCC Board Members



President: Scott



Vice President: Dennis



Treasurer: Al



Secretary: Gary



Events Coordinator: Bob



Member at Large: Julian

**Old Dominion Corvette Club  
PO Box 218  
Sterling, VA 20167**

**<https://OldDominionCorvetteClub.org/>**

**Thanks so much to all our contributors! This is your newsletter, so any ideas you have on things you would like to see are always appreciated. Everyone is encouraged to submit inputs on any ODCC events you attend or other noteworthy info (like a new addition to your family or another Corvette, a fun thing you've done, or whatever else you think others would like to hear about). We love to include articles and pictures submitted by members, so if you want to see yourself in print, here's your chance!**

## Corvette Humor



*The ultimate bed for Corvette owners!*



*As part of the tech package, it'll temporarily turn into a Corvette when your friends come around!*

*In honor of St. Patrick's Day, I painted your car green.*

*I knew it would leave you speechless Dad!*

