



# THE VAPOR TRAIL FEBRUARY 2021

Vapor Trail Vettes, P.O. Box 5241  
Santa Maria, CA 93456  
www.vaportrailvettes.com



## President's Message By Clay Beck

I hope this letter finds everyone in good health. So, they announced that 500,000 people in the US has died from Covid-19. I sure hope these numbers slow down drastically in the month coming up. I'm scheduled to get my Covid-19 shots and I'm hoping after many of us get these shots that things in our community will speed up a bit and we all can get back to some normality. I'm having faith that it will get better soon.

We have our March 13<sup>th</sup> autocross event coming up very soon. The first day that Motor Sport Reg came available to sign up we got over 15 drivers. I think everyone is tired of staying home and want to get out to play with their cars, I can't blame them. The time I wrote this letter we had 30 sign ups. Also, we have a Tesla model 3 that has signed up. A first for us and I can't wait to see how a Tesla will perform on an auto cross.

Well, I've put my name on 3 different dealerships lists for next year's 2022 Corvette ZO6 that I'm hoping will come out in August?? These C8 Corvettes are in such demand it is hard to get one. The factory in Bowling Green Kentucky was closed for nearly 3 weeks due to supply problems and stormy weather. The latest is to reopen March 5<sup>th</sup>. I've heard that when the factory is up and running, they can put out about 930 cars in a week. I need to be patient.

I am planning to work at Diablo Canyon Power Plant's refueling outage starting in March for about 7 weeks. This will help me secure some funds for my purchase of this new C8. I'm hoping after this outage in April, that things will settle down so our club can get out and have some runs and fun.

Well, I can't believe it. I was on my way to get a haircut and thought that I would take the Vette. It would not start, low battery. So, I put the charger on the battery. You know what that means? Not driving the Corvette often enough! See how this pandemic has affected me? Well now I'm sure this will be changing very soon. Let's go someplace.

A little trivia. I went to the gun store the other day to inquire about getting some bullets for my .22 rifle (squirrel gun). They said can't sell ammunition in California unless you are in the system with a background check. They also said they will not pursue a background check unless you buy a gun. Since my 22 rifle was bought at Walmart years ago with a box of 550 shells,

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- 01 – Chad Weber
- 03 – Kathy Beck
- 07 – Larry Wright
- 12 – Bill Deviny
- 13 – Bill Santmyer
- 31 – Jeff Palmer

## April

- 07 – Holly Palmer
- 12 – Gale Haugen
- 19 – Gerry White

## 2020 Board Members

President	Clay Beck	709-4434
Vice President	Holly Palmer	588-0246
Treasurer	Chuck Robertson	934-0694
Secretary	Hector Paz	610-7008
Governor:	Gale Haugen	610-7844
Newsletter	Gale Haugen	610-7844
Webmaster	Chuck Robertson	934-0694
Sunshine Guy	Chuck Robertson	934-0694

All numbers are in the 805 area code.

I now need to buy a gun. That doesn't make sense...Oh well new California rules what can one say. Stay Healthy! Clay

## **February 4, 2021 VTV Meetings Minutes**

**By Hector Paz**

The VTV meeting for the month of February was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 as a ZOOM Meeting. There were 7 attendees which meant that again we would not have a quorum and we would not be able to vote on anything. The attendees were

Clay Beck, Chuck Robertson, Gale Haugen, Hector Paz, Chris and Samantha Fitts, and Larry Wright. Our President Clay Beck called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

We couldn't approve the previous meeting minutes because we didn't have a quorum. We will have to approve all previous meeting minutes at a future time.

### **New/Old business– Clay Beck**

New Business:

Clay decided to start the meeting with the Treasurer's Report followed by the Governor's report.

Clay came back after the Treasurer's report and the Governor's report to talk about the March 13<sup>th</sup> autocross. The permit with the airport has been approved and just waiting for his signature. He ordered chalk and trophy cones and used the charge card for that. Also, loaded up our four events on MSR (Motorsportreg). The dates are March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup> & August 14<sup>th</sup>, and we have a reserved date of November 6<sup>th</sup> if we need it. Clay will open it up about three weeks before to sign in.

Clay shared that he is working the outage. He will start work on March 1<sup>st</sup> which will be 40 hours M-F for the first two weeks. From March 15<sup>th</sup> until April 10<sup>th</sup>, he will be working 72 hours per week. He will not be able to do our next or the following two meetings. Gale said that she or Chuck could do the meetings if Holly cannot do it.

He will be sending out an email to find out who is going to be helping him with the autocross.

### **Treasurer's Report– Chuck Robertson**

Chuck had previously emailed the Treasurer's report to the membership prior to the meeting. This report consisted of the 2020 year-end report and the proposed budget for 2021 which had been previously approved by the board.

## **February 4, 2021 VTV Meetings Minutes**

**By Hector Paz**

### **Treasurer's Report– Chuck Robertson**

He explained that the 2021 budget was based on prior year's expenses specifically 2019. He indicated that there were a couple of ambitious goals. Gale had a question about the amount designated for security badges. She indicated that the TSA badges were now required to be renewed annually. She wanted to know if the \$150 allocated for this was going to be enough for 8 renewals. After some discussion it was agreed to increase this item to \$200.

It was also agreed that to get club approval on the 2021 proposed budget that Chuck would send an email to all the club members asking for approval. It was also agreed that Chuck would also ask for approval on the meeting minutes that were included in the last newsletter that Gale had sent out.

### **VP Report– Holly Palmer**

Holly was not in attendance.

### **Governor's Report– Gale Haugen**

Gale apparently had reported on the last governors' meeting at our last meeting. She added that she had submitted all our event dates to our NCCC regional office, and she would let Clay know as soon as she hears from them.

### **Around the Virtual Room**

**Hector** said that he is just trying to stay COVID free; **Chris**, said he had a couple of thoughts after our last autocross. One, it appeared to him that there were some Corvettes that were running in the Open class and he didn't know why. It was explained that only NCCC members can participate in the corvette classes. His second thought was that his car and BJ's and other C-2's and C-3's the rules do not appear to be clear as to how they should be adequately classed; He shared about his family autocrossing down south during the latter part of the year. **Larry**, glad to see faces without masks. Shared that he is back to doing H&R Block taxes, doing business a bit differently and more flexible; **Chuck**, asked Clay to include the link to the TSA forms in his email to the folks that need to have their TSA badge renewed;

## **February 4, 2021 VTV Meetings Minutes**

**By Hector Paz**

### **Around the Virtual Room**

**Gale**, mentioned that we received a thank you card from the Boys & Girls Club, she asked for inputs about future events; She also shared about buying fresh fish at Avila pier and learning to filet it at home; **Clay**, gave kudos to Gale for the newsletter and for including a photo of the "Z06 mule" in his President's message. He also congratulated Chuck for the 2021 proposed budget.

### **Drawings**

No drawings were held.

Clay adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm. Next Meeting is March 4th and at this point in time a determination has not been made as to where or how.

## **Tech Corner—I Don't Mean to Pry**

**By Jim Carson**

There was a time when everything was metal and bolted on to cars and trucks. Glues and different types of plastic clips were mostly unheard of, but all that has changed. Adhesives are much more advanced and used in a lot of applications. More parts are made of plastic and being lightweight has become much more important because of fuel mileage standards imposed by the federal government. From front to rear, modern vehicles use glue and all kinds of plastic connectors and retainers. Look under the hood of any modern car and you'll see plastic.

A simple radiator bracket is a good example. What was once sheet metal held down by some metal screws is now plastic secured by two-piece push pins, one part hollow that then expands when the plastic pin is inserted

The picture on the right is of a group of small plastic pry tools that will help you through a lot of projects, automotive or just around the house. These should be in your toolbox, and you can buy a bag of them at any auto parts store for a few dollars. I think I paid \$5.00 at O'Reilly's. Recently I used the smaller tools at the bottom of the picture to remove a damaged fender emblem.

It's an easy job but you need to be patient.

## **Tech Corner—I Don't Mean to Pry**

**By Jim Carson**

First, put masking tape next to all four sides of the emblem to protect the paint. Next, get yourself seated next to where you're working because this will take a while. Use a hair dryer, starting out on low and heat the area around the emblem. Pay attention so the paint is not damaged. I understand that many of you do not own, need, or use a hair dryer but you can borrow one, as I did. Now, as the area heats up use the plastic pry tool carefully and start to lift an edge of the emblem and carefully work towards the middle. Go slowly, using the heat and the tool, and protecting the paint. It takes time but it will come off.



In this case there were two small locator pins on the back of the emblem that fit into holes in the fender. After the emblem came off, I was able to clean the paint with a cleaner and wax remover which I got at an auto paint supply. It takes a few applications; the adhesive is really strong. Then, remove the backing from the new emblem and push into place.



## Tech Corner—I Don't Mean to Pry

By Jim Carson

Another method is to heat the area and then use a piece of fishing line behind the emblem and kind of like dental floss move it back and forth until the part is removed. This would require a lot of care not to scratch the paint.

Next, I had to replace a third brake light which was mounted in a trunk lid, and this required some gentle prying and removal of about a dozen black plastic push pins. In the photo on the previous page, you'll see the tool with the black handle which is made just for this purpose. This one is not cheap because it's Snap-On, but you can get other brands. Simply remove the center of the device with the pry tool and you can lift the rest of it out, remove and replace the light assembly, and put it back together. The two tools above that are door handle removal tools, the top one is for GM, and the one below that for Ford. These allow you to remove interior door and window crank handles without damaging the part or the upholstery.

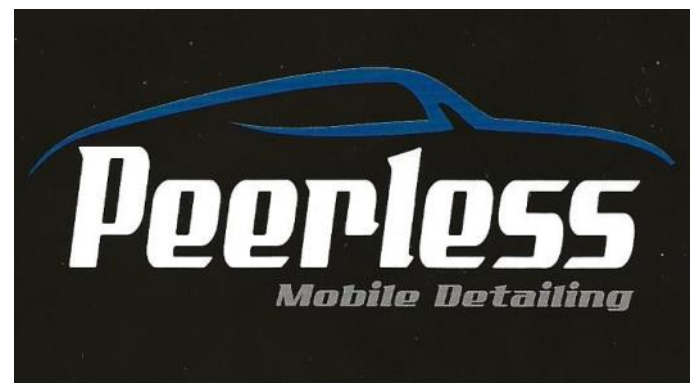
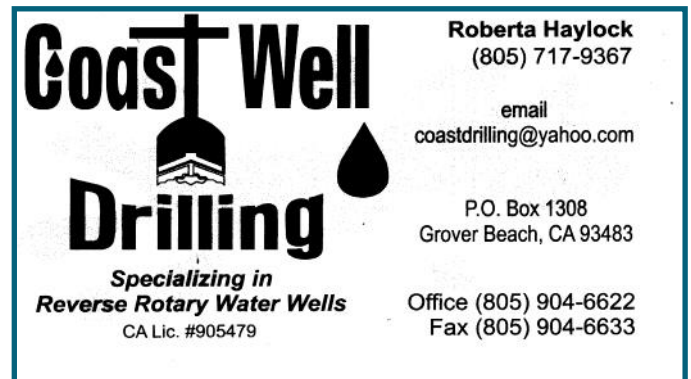
And some of the best, most used tools are often homemade. I have a bunch of these, small scrapers, probes, and hooks that are perfect for that hard-to-reach spot. Some other good items are tweezers and mini screwdrivers and small clamps. Some of the best clamps come with bags of coffee or other grocery items. And tiny saws such as a jeweler saw come in handy as do small magnets and a turkey baster is perfect for emptying master cylinders. Finally, never throw out a broken screwdriver- they can always be modified to be a useful hook, pick, or cotter pin puller.

These small, simple, jobs are satisfying. And having the right tool makes it fun.

*Thank you, Jim Carson, for the informative Tech Corner article. You are appreciated for your time and great contributions to the Vapor Trail Vettes*



## Business Cards



## ***Vapor Trail Vettes Sponsor***

# HOME MOTORS



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### **Home Motors—Corvette Inventory**



**Pre-Owned 2015 Corvette  
Coup Z06 3LZ**

**Price \$62,763**

*Inventory & prices as of February 24, 2021. Please  
check with Home Motors for latest updates.*

# 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
<b>January 2021</b>					
N/A	N/A	No VTV Monthly General Meeting Schedule	N/A	N/A	
Saturday	23	WC Regional Governor's Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	NCCC	
<b>February 2021</b>					
Thursday	4	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30 pm
Fri—Sat	19-20	NCCC National Governors Meeting	Sheraton Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO	NCCC	<b>Cancelled</b>
	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>March 2021</b>					
Thursday	4	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30 pm
Saturday	13	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	Register online at <a href="http://motorsportreg.com">motorsportreg.com</a>
TBD	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>April 2021</b>					
Thursday	1	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30 pm
Saturday	17	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	Register online at <a href="http://motorsportreg.com">motorsportreg.com</a>
Saturday	24	FBC 2nd Annual Spring Car Show	Solvang	FBC	10am-3pm - (805) 403-7676
Fri-Sat	30-5/1	NCCC National Governors Meeting	Sheraton Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	

# 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
<b>May 2021</b>					
Thursday	6	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30pm
Saturday	15	WC Regional Governor's Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	NCCC	
Fri-Sun	28-30	39th Annual West Coast Kustom's Cruisin Nationals	Santa Maria		951-488-0413
TBD	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>June 2021</b>					
Thursday	3	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30pm
Sat-Sun	4-6	35th Annual Classic Car Show	Pismo Beach		9am-9pm 909-363-4682
Sun-Fri	13-18	62nd Annual NCCC Convention	Cleveland, OH	E. OH Region	
Saturday	26	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	Register online at motorsportreg.com
	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>July 2021</b>					
Saturday	3	4th of July BBQ	Shell Beach	Hector & Gale	Replaces July Mtg
	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>August 2021</b>					
Thursday	5	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30pm
Saturday	14	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	Register online at motorsportreg.com
Saturday	28	16th Annual Wheels 'n Windmills Car Show	Solvang		9am-4pm 805-688-6112
	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>September 2021</b>					
Thursday	2	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30pm
Fri-Sat	10-11	NCCC National Governors Meeting	Sheraton Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
Saturday	18	WC Regional Governor's Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	NCCC	

# 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
<b>September 2021</b>					
Sunday	26	Auto Classic at Trilogy Monarch Dunes	Nipomo		10am—4pm 805-305-4937
	TBD	Drive & Dine Social	TBD	VTV	
<b>October 2021</b>					
Monday	1	Start Nominations for 2022 E-Board		VTV	
Thursday	7	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30 pm
Fri-Sat	TBD	Annual Corvette Blast	Pismo Beach	VTV	
<b>November 2021</b>					
Thursday	4	VTV Monthly General Meeting—Announce 2022 Board Members	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30 pm
Saturday	6	Vapor Trail Vettes Auto-cross (Alternate Date)	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	Register online at motorsportreg.com
Sunday	7	48th Annual Noioqui Falls Fun Run Car Show			8am—3pm 805-736-7059
Fri-Sat	12-13	NCCC National Governors Meeting	Sheraton Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
Sunday	15	VTV Membership Renewal Deadline			
TBD	TBD	Turkey Run—Donations		VTV	
Thursday	25	Thanksgiving			
<b>December 2021</b>					
Thursday	2	VTV Monthly General Meeting	ZOOM Meeting	VTV	Meetings Start at 6:30 pm
TBD	TBD	VTV Christmas Dinner/Gift Exchange	TBD	VTV	
TBD	TBD	Boys & Girls Club Christmas	Santa Maria	VTV	