



# THE VAPOR TRAIL FEBRUARY 2024

Vapor Trail Vettes, P.O. Box 524  
Santa Maria, CA 93456  
www.vaportrailvettes.com



## Presidents Message

By Clay Beck

Well as I write this letter, we are having a bit of a rainy season, which is ok because we like the rain, right? However, it is not so good for driving our Corvettes. We do have a little rain coming in a couple of days, but I want to think that all this rain should be coming to an end soon. We are planning our first of the year auto cross coming soon (March 9<sup>th</sup>). It better not rain that weekend.

Some of our VTV members took a run up to Creston to the Loading Chute for lunch. We took the 101 to the 46 to Creston and on the way back home we took the route to Santa Margarita then 101 again home. That was a beautiful trip, very beautiful countryside out in these small hills. I believe we had about seven Corvettes which was a good turnout. This month of February we have the autocross event to plan for and hopefully we will have another run in March.

I'm still on the list at Lompoc Sunset Chery dealer for purchasing a C8 Z06. In fact, I'm number 3 instead of 8 where I was a year ago. So, still hoping to make an order hopefully this year. According to an article I read, the production for Z06's is improving. Anyway, I still have the dream.

We had a garage day last Saturday to check out the timing equipment that is used for the auto cross. It checked out good so we will be ready for the event. Had a nice turnout to make this happen. Thanks to all of you for your help. Our Motor Sport Reg is now open for people to sign up the autocross and we already have several sign ups. We are hoping for a good turnout even though it is early in the year. So, the dates for our auto crosses this year are March 9; June 1; July 13; and August 17<sup>th</sup>. Well, that is about all I have for this letter. I'm getting excited for the good weather that is coming soon.

Clay Beck

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## February

No Birthdays

## March

03- Kathy Beck

07—Larry Wright

12—Bill Deviny

13—Bill Santmyer

31 Clint Perry

## 2024 Board Members

President	Clay Beck	709-4434
Vice President	Mary Carson	441-4504
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.

## **February 1, 2024 VTV Meetings Minutes—By Hector Paz**

The VTV meeting for the month of February was held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the IHOP in Santa Maria. There were ten (10) members present. The attendees were:

Gerry White, Brenda Parks, Bruce Potter, Hector Paz, Gale Haugen, Larry Wright, Chuck Robertson, Clint Perry, Clay Beck, and Mary Carson.

Clay called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clay announced that Chris Deviny's birthday is on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

There was no meeting in December or January. Chuck made the motion and Gale seconded to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

### **Old Business— Clay Beck**

The first item under Old Business was to announce the latest autocross dates for 2024 (March 9<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, and August 17<sup>th</sup>). These dates are listed on motorsportreg.

The second item under Old Business was to announce the VTV Executive Board officers for 2024. This item was brought up and approved during the November meeting. It was also mentioned that some of these officers have other duties as well (i.e. Clay is the chairperson for the autocross, Chuck is the webmaster, Gale is the newsletter editor and the chairperson of the annual Blast).

### **New Business—Clay Beck**

The first item under New Business was to inform the club that the airport permit for 2024 has been approved. Gale will provide Clay with a copy of the Certificate of Insurance.

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

Chuck went over the November, December and January income and expenses treasury reports:

November started out with \$12,615.44 in the bank. Under November income, we had \$180 in membership dues and \$25 for the 50/50. The expenses were \$278.99 of which \$163.13 was used to make a deposit to the SM Inn for the Christmas dinner, \$35 was for the regional dues, and \$54.38 was for the cost to update the "oversize" check that was presented to the Foodbank. At the end of November, we ended with \$12,541.44.

## **February 1, 2024 VTV Meetings Minutes—By Hector Paz**

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

December started with \$12,541.44 in the bank. Under December income we had \$45 for membership annual dues and \$163.13 was a refund from the SM Inn since we didn't have our annual Christmas party. The expenses were \$12.99 for the website, \$690 for NCCC annual dues and \$954.02 for the Christmas gifts presented to the Santa Maria Boys and Girls club. At the end of December, we ended up with \$11,092.57 in the bank.

In January we had no income. The expenses were \$151.18 for the flowers sent for Cliff Erickson's funeral, \$1,250 paid (last payment) to the Porsche club for the repaving of the auto cross track, and \$789.47 for more of the Christmas gifts presented to the Santa Maria Boys and Girls club. At the end of January, we ended up with \$8,901.92 in the bank.

Hector made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, and Larry seconded it. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Next, Chuck discussed the problem with the website being down. He explained that Clay and he have been working on this item for the last several months. He explained that Name Secure currently has ownership of our website, vapor-trailscom. Unfortunately, Name Secure has not provided the customer service needed to support our website. We are currently working towards getting the ownership transferred to Host Gator (who currently hosts our website) because it will be more cost effective. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get Name Secure to give us the code needed to transfer the ownership to Host Gator. Our subscription stopped on January 13<sup>th</sup> and if we could have gotten the proper code from Name Secure, we could have moved it over to Host Gator without any problems. But since we were not able to do that, it is now in limbo for the next 90 - 180 days. In the meantime, our website will continue to be down.

### **VP Report – Mary Carson**

Clay mentioned that we had a good turnout and a good time when we went to Creston in January. For future events Mary explained that Bruce has a friend who has a ranch in Paso Robles. This could be our February run. Bruce is going to check with his friend.

## **February 1, 2024 VTV Meetings Minutes**

**By Hector Paz**

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

Gale mentioned that the next NCCC West Coast Regional meeting will be in March 2024 in Las Vegas. She is going to talk to the NCCC West Coast Region director to inquire about setting up a Zoom meeting.

### **Around the Room**

**Clay** shared that their trip to the Galapagos Islands was canceled at the last minute due to unrest in the country and in lieu of it they decided to go visit Kathy's brother in Texas; **Chuck** shared that he had his wheels straightened out. He said that Jays in North Broadway in Santa Maria can do all wheels and alignment for \$1,000 vs \$4,000 for new rims; **Clint** shared that business is slow which gives him more time to spend with his parents; **Gerry** shared that Brenda needs a new name tag. Also, the internationals are going to be at the end of March. **Hector** shared that in April will be twenty years since he and Gale joined the club. Also shared that he has had an intermittent start with his 1998 C5. Clay agreed to look at it and Hector brought it over to Clay's. The two of them, but primarily Clay, did a lot of troubleshooting that ended up isolating the problem to a faulty BCM (Body Control Module). Hector purchased a new BCM but unfortunately after installation they ended up with a new problem. The engine would start but it wouldn't run, which is the opposite of the initial problem. At this point they swapped the new BCM with the old one and agreed that Hector would take it to the dealership. Clint added that any time you install a new box you must program it which they didn't do. **Bruce** shared that he is still working full time.

### **Drawings**

Chuck was the winner of the 50/50. The winner of the name badge game was not present. The door prize was agreed to be suspended until we have more prizes.

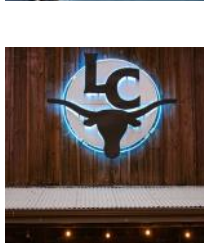
Clay adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm. The next meeting is Thursday March 7th at 6:30 pm at the IHOP in Santa Maria. The reservation has been made for 5:30 pm for those who would like to join us for dinner.

## **Club Reminder**

Club members that hold Santa Maria Airport security badges must fill out the badge application at <https://smx.airportbadges.com> followed by making an appointment to visit to the airport district office to show two documents as proof of who you are such as drivers license or passport.

## **Lunch at The Loading Chute**

On at the 27th of January members met at the Pismo Beach outlet for a drive to Creston for lunch at the Loading Chute restaurant. It was a beautiful drive, great lunch and wonderful company.



## **Tech Corner—The Mystery of a C5 Starting Problem**

Many members are witness to Hector's C5 not starting. He has carried a jump starter in his trunk for the last year or so. Members have tried to assist in solving the problem from "just get in the car and put the seatbelt on." The crazy part of this was the car started right up but that was the only time it worked. Then Clay decided to do some research in his four inch thick Corvette manual and came up with a potential fix. A new body control module was ordered and installed with no luck. Clay and Hector decided it was time to take it to the dealer. After two days at the Chevrolet service department Hector was asked to take them any spare keys he had for the car. A day later the car was ready to go with a new ignition switch installed and a new key to go with it. He is hoping this is the final fix but is still keeping the jump starter in the trunk, just in case. Thanks, Clay for all your help and the use of your shop.



## **Christmas at The Boys & Girls Club** **By Gale Haugen**

On December 14, 2023 VTV members Chuck Robertson, Mary Carson, Hector Paz and Gale Haugen loaded up 89 wrapped presents and gift cards for the kids at the Boys & Girls Club in Santa Maria.

Unable to contact our regular Santa who played Santa the last few years we bought a Santa suit and dressed Hector up as Santa. It was well worth investing in the suit just listening to the screeching and excitement when Santa walked into the central area of the club where the kids hang out.

We finished presenting the last present and noticed many kids without a gift so we asked them to raise their hand if they didn't receive anything. Forty two little hands shot up! This has never happened in the years we have been giving to the kids. We are supplied a list of full time attendees in November so what a surprise to see all these hands. We do take a few extra presents and gift cards but 42 was a little over our inventory on hand. It all turned out well between the B&G's club director and Mary Carson to ensure all kids got something.

I would encourage more members to join in next year for the gift giving. Looking into those little faces when they open their gifts will make you proud of our club's support to this great cause.



## **Farewell to Cliff Erickson** **By Gale Haugen**

VTV member Cliff Erickson passed away at 79 years old on December 31, 2023, in South Carolina.



Cliff was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and served in the United States Army. He was a photographer and enjoyed writing, artwork, playing guitar and singing. Many of us remember Cliff as the member who loved to entertain others. He was most comfortable with a microphone in this hand and jesting with surrounding people. He had a very dry sense of humor which left some of us wondering if he was serious or not at times.

Cliff and his wife Beverly joined Vapor Trail Vettes in May 2009. After years in the club they moved to South Carolina to be close to Beverly's daughter's family.

Along with Vapor Trail Vettes club Cliff also belonged to the Elks Lodge in Santa Maria and Florence, S.C. and the Reel Cowboys in Los Angeles.

He is survived by Beverly, his wife of 26 years, Cliff's son, Nicholas Erickson (Roberta) of Springfield, Va, step-daughter, Paula Robinson (Michael) of Sumter S.C. and five grandchildren.



# Vapor Trail Vettes Sponsor



1313 E Main St, Santa Maria, CA 93454

**Phone:** (805) 285-2908

## Home Motors—Corvette Inventory



**2007 Corvette Z06**  
Mileage 532

**Exterior Color**  
Lemans Blue Metallic

**Interior Color**  
Highwear Nuance Leather

**\$50,876**



**2008 Corvette Z06**  
Mileage 1,211

**Exterior Color**  
Machine Silver Metallic

**Interior Color**  
Ebony, Leather

**\$51,386**



**2019 Corvette Stingray 3LT**  
Mileage 17,094

**Exterior Color**  
Blade Silver Metallic

**Interior Color**  
Jet Black Leather

**\$56,014**



**2022 Corvette Stingray 2LT**  
Mileage 2,676

**Exterior Color**  
Rapid Blue

**Interior Color**  
Sky Cool Gray Leather

**\$77,814**

Corvette inventory as of 02/24/2024. Please call ahead for any changes since this date.

## Business Cards



Do you have a mechanic or car related business you would recommend to your Corvette friends? If so, please pick up a business card and share it in this newsletter.

# 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Day	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
<b>Weekly Events</b>					
2024	Saturday	Pismo Derelicts & Donuts	829 Pak Park Blvd, Pismo Beach		8-10 AM
2024	Sunday	Orcutt Derelicts	Orcutt		8-10 AM
<b>January</b>					
27	Saturday	VTV Lunch in Creston	Loading Chute	VTV	
<b>February</b>					
1	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
23-24	Fri-Sat	National NCCC Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
<b>March</b>					
2	Saturday	Regional Governors Meeting	Las Vegas, NV	Joe Orrico	
7	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
9	Saturday	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	
<b>April</b>					
4	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
<b>May</b>					
2	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
3-4	Fri-Sat	National NCCC Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
11	Saturday	Regional Governors Meeting	TBD	Joe Orrico	
14-18	Tue-Sat	NCCC Convention	Joplin, MO		

# 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Day	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
<b>June</b>					
1	Saturday	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	
6	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
<b>July</b>					
TBD	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
4	Thursday	4th of July Parade	Solvang	Santa Ynez Valley Rotary	TBD
13	Saturday	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	
17-20	Wed-Sat	Black Hills Corvette Classic	Spearfish, South Dakota	Sioux Falls Corvette Club	
<b>August</b>					
1	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
17	Saturday	VTV Autocross	Santa Maria Airport	VTV	
<b>September</b>					
5	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
13-14	Fri-Sat	National NCCC Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
21	Saturday	Regional Governors	Antelope Valley	Joe Orrico	
<b>October</b>					
3	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
<b>November</b>					
7	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	IHop, Santa Maria	VTV	Mtg start at 6:30
8-9	Fri-Sat	National NCCC Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
<b>December</b>					
TBD	TBD	VTV Christmas Dinner	TBD	VTV	
TBD	TBD	Boys/Girls Club Christmas	Boys/Girls Club, Santa Maria	VTV	