



THE VAPOR TRAIL JULY/AUGUST 2025

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



Presidents Message for July

By Clay Beck

Well Corvette lovers, I hope your summer is going fine and you are taking advantage of the good weather that we are having on the Central Coast. I just returned from a Millerton Lake trip of water skiing with the grand kids and the first day was about 105 degrees. After that day, the temperatures came down a little. Now I can see why the valley people like to come to the coast for that very nice weather.

As I am writing this letter, I am packing for a trip to Pahrump Nevada to the Spring Mountain Race Way for the Corvette driving school. When I purchased my ZO6, GM offers this school to learn all about the electronic that this car offers. And I get to drive on their high-speed track. So, needless to say, I'm excited to take advantage of this offer. I purchase my ZO6 in February and I only have 2400 miles on it so far. It sure is a good ride.

The 4th of July Solvang Parade was attended by several of our VTV members, and I want to say the cars were decorated with all the red, white, and blue stuff and flags. Great job for Brian Phillips for constructing a paper rocket that was attached to the roof of his corvette. I heard from someone that our Vettes were the number one for auto groups in the parade?? We all had a great time.

Well next on our calendar for activities is an autocross event scheduled for August 16th. This will be the 3rd autocross of this year with the final autocross scheduled for September 20th.

That's all I have for this time, see you all soon.

Clay Beck

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Happy Birthday

September

15 Pat Kelley

October

01 Hector Paz



2025 Board Members

President	Clay Beck	709-4434
Vice President	Position Open	
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.

August 7, 2025 VTV Meetings Minutes

—By Chuck Robertson

The August meeting started with the pledge of allegiance and then Clay called the meeting to order at 6:25.

Members present were: Clay Beck, Larry Wright, Gerry White, Clint Perry and Chuck Robertson.

Clay announced the birthdays for the month: Nathan Griffin on the 3rd, Bruce Potter on the 4th, Bruce Morgenthaler on the 16th, Bee Jay Jones on the 19th, Gary Hackett on the 22nd and Brian Phillips on the 28th.

The next item was approval of the June meeting. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Larry. All approved.

Treasurer's Report— Chuck Robertson

Chuck gave the treasurer's report covering June and July. We ended up July with \$9,968.00 in the bank. Larry made a motion to approve the report, and it was seconded by Clint. All approved.

VP Report

For the VP report, Clay talked about the need for social events and wanted to something towards the end of the month. Several ideas were discussed including going to places farther away than usual. Clay thought those were good, but pointed out that we lost folks quickly when we tried them in the past. He indicated that he would come up with something as we get closer to the date. Gerry brought up doing something with the other club, which Clay thought would be great for socializing with fellow Vette owners.

Governor's Report— Clay Beck for Gale Haugen

Gale was not available to give the governor's report. Clay talked about the fact that the region had expanded to include Oregon and Washington. Now the governor's meetings were via Zoom.

August 7, 2025 VTV Meetings

Minutes—By Chuck Robertson

Governor's Report— Clay Beck for Gale Haugen

Clay brought up that nationally, member dues are going up for next year. He pointed out that the dues had held steady for many years.

He also talked about some of the things we have lost like no sanctioned event. Chuck pointed out that the loss of sanctioned events was a regional thing and that we had a new competition director, so we may see that changed for next year. Clay pointed out that the month's Blue Bars had a long article for the region, something that was very rare.

Around the Room

Clay started this by relating his experience at Ron Fellow's Corvette Driver's School. He had a car that was very close in spec to the one he bought. It was 105 degrees while he was there and was very happy that the classrooms and cars were air conditioned. He described how the instructor drove a car and had the students lined up behind him to show them the racing line. He felt that the electronics in the C8 were amazing. The instruction included a session on the wet skid pad and with the car in wet mode it was impossible to get the car to skid. Launch control was also taught and he did the 0 to 60 in 3.1 seconds. The instructor pointed out that the times were greater than those claimed by Chevrolet because of the altitude and high ambient temperature. An autocross was also included in the curriculum and he placed first, even though he was the oldest guy in the class! Clay said that there was about 9 miles of track and could be configured in about 17 different ways. On the track, he found that he tended to start a turn too early, but when he turned at the designated point, he was set up much better for not only that turn, but the next one as well.

August 7, 2025 VTV Meetings Minutes—By Chuck Robertson

Around the Room

In one session, the instructor drove the student's car and showed him the real capabilities of the car. Clay indicated that it was so violent that he got a bit nauseated. **Gerry** was next and said it would be neat to have a trip to a racetrack. **Larry** talked about how when he was at a doctor's office, almost everyone was glued to their phone. Clay said he saw the same thing when he was at Disneyland. **Chuck** said that he had changed the oil on his BMW the day before and for the first time collected an oil sample. He mailed the package just before coming to the meeting and was really interested in what the analysis would show. He mentioned that he ordered the kit from Blackstone-labs.com and that the basic level analysis was \$40, but he had opted for the extended test at \$50. **Clint** knew about the process and said that the results usually took 7 to 12 working days and that the results were sent by email. Clint said that his folks were doing as well as could be expected.

Drawings

Gerry won the \$14 pot from the 50/50 drawing and Lindsey Weber's name was pulled for the name tag drawing. With her not present, another \$5 was added to the pot. Clay adjourned the meeting at 7:15.

Fun Facts About Corvettes

Who owns the largest Corvette collection?

Rick Hendrick's Heritage Center in North Carolina houses over 120 rare Corvettes, making it a contender for one of the world's most significant private collections. Other large collections include the Muscle Car City Museum, which had over 200 GM cars including many Corvettes, and a collection owned by Andre Boer in the Netherlands, with over 100 Corvettes

Fun Facts About Corvettes Cont'd

The Corvette has been used as the pace car of the Indianapolis 500 thirteen times, more than any other vehicle! 9. You might be surprised to learn that the 1968 LT-2 Corvette prototype is the fastest in history, completing the quarter-mile in 10.86 seconds and going 0-60 in 2.8 seconds.

What is the Corvette symbol called?

It features the **French lily** symbol and the Chevrolet logo flag crossed with a racing flag on the right side. The French Fleur-de-lis symbol represents peace and purity.

How old are Corvette owners?

The C8 is pulling in a lot of Millennials (28 to 43 years old) and Gen X (44 to 59 years old) buyers, along with the Corvette's traditional Baby Boomer (59 to 77 years old) buyers.

What is a survivor Corvette?

The SURVIVOR® Award is designed to recognize those Corvettes that are "worn in, but not worn out." A SURVIVOR Corvette is significantly unrestored, unrepaired, or unmodified and meets these requirements: Is over 20 years old. Passes a road test. Retains OEM engine.

What is a stealth Corvette?

The ROC Navy's Tuo Chiang-class corvette is a class of fast stealth multi-mission corvettes currently in service with the Republic of China (Taiwan) Navy. The ships are designed to have a low radar cross-section and evade radar detection making it difficult to detect the ship when operating closer to the coastline.

Who is the #1 Corvette dealer of the world?

MacMulkin Corvette - #1 Corvette Dealer in the World! This dealership is located in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Out of curiosity I went to the dealers website to check their inventory. Have you ever shopped for a new Corvette and had 114 to choose from? They also had 6 used Corvettes. That number of new Corvettes blew me away.

Solvang 4th of July Parade

Vapor Trail Vettes entered the Solvang 4th of July again this year. I believe this is the 9th year our club has participated in this parade. It is always a great time decorating our Vettes, throwing candy to the kids along the route and of course going to Mother Hubbard's Restaurant for lunch and conversation after the parade.

Our club won "Best Automobile Group" in the parade again this year. Way to go, VTV participants.





APRIL CHAVEZ, STAFF

Racecar driver and Santa Maria Speedway director of operations, Chad Weber, with his No. 37 IMCA SportMod in his Arroyo Grande race shop.

Chad Weber's passion for racing powers Santa Maria Speedway

APRIL CHAVEZ
achavez@santamariatimes.com

On any given Saturday night, the roar of engines and the smell of burnt rubber fill the air at Santa Maria Speedway, and at the center of the action is Chad Weber, a local legend whose passion for racing runs three generations deep.

Weber, 51, drives the No. 37 IMCA SportMod, a car sponsored by Main Electric Supply, Meineke Car Care Center and Big Brand Tire. But he's not just a regular contender on the local racing scene. He also serves as the Speedway's director of operations, a role he took on in the 2025 season, he said, to help keep race nights smooth, safe and engaging for fans and drivers.

"I'm a third-generation race car driver," said Weber, standing recently in his Arroyo Grande race shop. "My grandfather was at the very first race in 1964 at Santa Maria Speedway. He didn't race for very long, but my dad raced there too from the late '60s to early '80s. So I grew up there as a kid."



CASEY TURBOW, CONTRIBUTED

Chad Weber, racecar driver and Santa Maria Speedway director of operations, works with the crowd at a recent Speedway event.

That legacy lives on in the No. 37 Weber drives today, a number passed down from his father, and one he's proudly made his own.

"Three generations of racers share that number; it means a lot to me," he said. "I have it tattooed on my body, it's on everything. Even with my drag car, I asked if

I could work 37 into the number." Weber's road to becoming one of Santa Maria Speedway's most recognizable figures wasn't without hardship.

In a severe on-track accident, Weber's left arm was severed, a devastating injury that sidelined him for over a year.

"I rolled side-by-side and my arm came out, and I landed on it. It severed the whole arm. The only thing keeping it attached was a piece of skin," he recalled. "Some people have an injury like that and never recover, but if it wasn't for racing, the drive to get back in the car, I don't think I would've made it."

As director of operations at the Speedway, Weber does everything from coordinating with touring series to managing staff and working with race teams. He also oversees safety and is the hands-on force ensuring the Speedway remains a community hub.

"We have a board of directors," Weber explained. "My position ... covers a lot of the racing side. I organize everything before, during and after the race. Whatever comes up, I handle it."

Balancing the roles of racer and administrator isn't easy, but Weber said he embraces the challenge.

Please see WEBER, Page A3

VTV Member Chad Weber ~ Racer & Director of Operations at Santa Maria Speedway

Weber

From A1

"Racing, for me, is when I get to get in the car, strap in, and go racing," he said. "Once we put our helmets on and strap in and we're on that track we're not thinking about anything else. You have to hyper-focus. That, to me, is a huge release. It's what makes all of the work worth it."

Weber leads by example when it comes to sponsor engagement. His car, a bright, bold showcase for his partners is a rolling billboard, but his efforts go much deeper.

"I do a lot of fan appreciation stuff during the intermissions at races," he said. "Every time I'm there, I'm up in my suit that has all their logos on it. I throw out candy to the kids, bring toys and little giveaways. I am just trying to build that fan interaction."

His long-standing relationship with Big Brand Tire, a partner of 15 years, stands as a testament to his commitment.

"My partners love that.



CASEY TURBOW, CONTRIBUTED

Chad Weber, racecar driver and Santa Maria Speedway director of operations, runs the track.

They want to be affiliated with someone professional, someone who's giving something back," Weber said. "In my mind, a 'sponsor' is someone who gives you money to put their name on your car. A 'partner' is someone who invests in you."

For younger drivers, Weber offers this: "Put more pro in your program ... Be professional. Act like someone you'd want representing your own business."

Weber sees the Speedway as more than a place to race: it's a space where families

can connect, cheer, and create memories.

"Give it a chance. It's a great night of family entertainment," Weber said. "We've made it affordable so you can come out, spend the evening, and not break the bank."

Weber hopes to continue building the connection with fans while chasing checkered flags along the way.

"As far as the Speedway staff role I would love to see the racetrack continue to improve and grow," he said. "As a driver? I'd love to win

some races. It just comes down to that. Win races."

And if he's not racing?

"It wouldn't feel complete," he admitted. "If I'm not at the racetrack on a Saturday night, I'm at the lake or the beach somewhere relaxing with my wife. But most Saturdays ... I'm racing somewhere."

Weber said that although he doesn't have children of his own to inherit his No. 37, a fourth-generation driver may be in his extended family.

"I have a nephew who has a son and they live in Texas," Weber said. "I would love to see him in the No. 37 someday. That would be awesome. But no one is close just yet. His name is Axel, he's seven right now."

"So ... hey, you never know! Maybe he'll move home and come drive the 37 car."

April Chavez is the Santa Maria City Reporter for the Santa Maria Times. If you have information, or a story idea that you would like to share, send her an email at AChavez@SantaMariaTimes.com.



August 16, 2025 Autocross - By Chuck Robertson

August 16th started out overcast, but the skies cleared and the sun shown for the rest of the day. Despite some lurid spins and timing problems, we were able to allow each driver ten runs during the day. The course was a bit different than usual and challenged the new drivers. Old heads also found areas to practice new approaches to handling multiple corners.

Congratulations to the trophy winners:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Woman's Open B	1st	Nancy Bodily
Men's C2 HYB.	1st	David T. Beck
Men's Open A	1st	Marty U'ren
Men's Open B1	1st	Charles Floyd
	2nd	Elijah Magana
	3rd	Jose Magana
Men's Open B2	1st	Steve Barker
	2nd	Ian Blancett
	3rd	Noah Gaither
Men's Open B3	1st	David Thompson
Men's Open B4	1st	Klause (Sonny) Brown
	2nd	Bill Deviny



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Brennan Landscaping built the fence pictured above. I would highly recommend his services. He is a hard worker, on time, and completed this job in two days. He is also very fair in pricing jobs. .

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

Vapor Trail Vettes Club Pullover

The following men's and women's pullovers are the chosen attire for Vapor trail Vettes. The pullover is **BLACK with Red trim**. The member is responsible for ordering and paying for the pullover. VTV will pay to have your name and VTV logo embroidered for you.. You can order the pullovers from North End.

If you would rather have a polo shirt you can purchase one from a local business at your cost and the club will pay for the embroidering.



North End -Men's Quarter-Zip Long Sleeve Pullover. **BLACK WITH RED TRIM.**

Order Number : 8187

\$36.00 + 8.75% Tax = \$39.15



North End -Ladies Quarter-Zip Long Sleeve Pullover. **BLACK WITH RED TRIM.**

Order Number : 78187

\$36.00 + 8.75% Tax = \$39.15

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Day	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
Weekly Events					
2024/25	Saturday	Pismo Derelicts & Do-nuts	829 Pak Park Blvd, Pismo Beach		8-10 AM
2024/25	Sunday	Orcutt Derelicts	Orcutt		8-10 AM
January					
1	Wednesday	New Years Day	Holiday		
TBD	TBD	Drive & Dine VTV Mtg.	TBD	VTV	
20	Monday	Martin Luther King Day	Holiday		
February					
6	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
17	Monday	Presidents Day	Holiday		
21-22	Fri-Sat	NCCC National Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
March					
1	Saturday	WC Region Governors Meeting	Zoom Meeting	WC Region	11AM—12PM
6	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
8-9	Sat-Sun	11th Annual Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Car Show	St. Louis De Montfort Church		
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
April					
3	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
1-3	Thur-Sat	29th Annual Morro Bay Car Show	Morro Bay		
2-3	Fri-Sat	NCCC National Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
19	Saturday	Autocross	SM Airport	VTV	
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Day	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
May					
1	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
1-3	Thur-Sat	29th Annual Morro Bay Car Show	Morro Bay		
2-3	Fri-Sat	NCCC National Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
16	Friday	WC Region Governor's Meeting	Zoom Meeting		11AM-12PM
23-25	Fri-Sun	44th Annual Kustoms Crusin Nationals			
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
June					
5	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
5-8	Thur-Sun	Elks Rodeo			
TBD	TBD	28th Annual Elks Car Show			
14	Saturday	Autocross	SM Airport	VTV	
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
July					
3	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting— Canceled		VTV	
4	Friday	Solvang 4th of July Parade	Solvang - Holiday		
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
August					
7	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
16	Saturday	Autocross	SM Airport	VTV	
16	Saturday	All Corvette Car Show	Buena Park Elks #2046	Corvette Super Sports	9 am—2 pm (See Flyer)
16-17	Sat-Sun	North/South Run-Car Show	SM Inn		
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NCCC, VAPOR TRAIL VETTES & LOCAL EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Location	Sponsor	Comments
September					
1	Monday	Labor Day	Holiday		
4	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
12-13	Fri-Sat	NCCC National Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
13	Saturday	23rd Annual all Ford Car Show	Old Town Orcutt		
20	Saturday	WC Region Governor's Meeting	Zoom Meeting		11AM-12PM
20	Saturday	Autocross	SM Airport	VTV	Register at Motorsport.reg
25-27	Thurs-Sat	19Annual Prescott Corvette Car Show	Prescott, AZ	Prescott Vette Sette	
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
October					
2	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
18	Saturday	Clam Festival Parade	Pismo Beach	PB Visitor's Center	Invited to take part in parade.
19	Sunday	Cops & Cars Car Show	Santa Maria Inn	SM Police Department	
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
November					
6	Thursday	VTV Monthly Meeting	I Hop, Santa Maria	VTV	5:30 Dinner. Mtg starts at 6:30
11	Tuesday	Veterans Day	Holiday		
14-15	Fri-Sat	NCCC National Meeting	St. Louis, MO	NCCC	
27	Thursday	Thanksgiving	Holiday		
TBD	TBD	Dine and Dash			
December					
TBD	TBD	Boys & Girls Club Christmas			
TBD	TBD	VTV Christmas Party			
25	Thursday	Christmas Day	Holiday		

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Start Your Engines! 2025 Historic Prescott Corvette Car Show



2025 19th Annual All-Corvette Car Show

Registration Now Open!

Prescott, Arizona

September 25th-27th

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Corvette Show in beautiful Prescott Arizona. You are invited to join us September 25-27th, so make your vacation plans now. We expect to have 300 plus beautiful Corvettes surrounding the courthouse square.

- **Early check-in Thursday 2 to 7 pm and Friday 1 to 4 pm will be at the Hassayampa Inn.**
- **Friday morning Poker Draw: You will have four options to choose from.**
- **This year's shirt will be a T-shirt with our show logo on the front and last year's winning cars on the back. Woman's shirt will be long sleeve with a V-neck. Colors to be determined.**
- **Friday night Meet & Greet has moved to an indoor speakeasy!**
- **Spring Mountain/Ron Fellows Driving School raffle.**
- **50/50 Raffle**
- **Saturday Evening BBQ.**

Make your vacation plans and reserve rooms now.

Please visit: <https://www.experienceprescott.com/lodging/>

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More information to follow

If you have any questions, please email:

Joe Leffelman, 2025 Car Show Chair

carshow@prescottvettesette.com





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