SOUTHERN OREGON CORVETTE ASSOCIATION, LLC
WWW.SOVETTE.COM
P.O. Box 865 • Medford, Oregon 97501
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Newsletter
February 2017

2016 Directors

President: Tony Herrera
Vice-President: Ron Howard
Secretary: David Allen
Treasurer: Juanita Gillaspey
Sergeant-at-Arms: Patrick Smith
Past President (2015): Ron Howard

Appointed Positions

Historian: Group Effort
Photographer: Group Effort
Sunshine: Sandee Anderson
Activities: Group Effort
Event Reminder: Pat Dobson
Membership: Robert Thiel
Webmaster: Cathy York & Sharon Hook-Martino
Parade Coordinator: Nena Herrera
NCM Ambassador: Len Atlas
CORVETTE Weekend**:** Ron Howard
(Refer to Membership Roster for contact information)

Membership

March Birthdays

Bob Meneley 3/1	Chris Wilson 3/16
Don Dennis 3/3	Cathy York 3/16
Pete Miller 3/4	Tonjie Ophus 3/18
Stephen Clarke 3/5	David Allen 3/24
Marga Atlas 3/7	Sandee Anderson 3/26
Pat Smith 3/8	Jim Ellis 3/26

Mardh Anniversaries
Florin & Elizabeth Baldridge
John & Sandra Castle
Wayne & Juanita Gillaspey

SOCA Logo Apparel

Contact Tony Herrera

Next Club Social

March 18 at Elmer's Restaurant

Please RSVP to Pat Dobson @ pdobson0503@icloud.com ***or 541-664-4506***

Why Join SOCA?

- **Promote esprit-de-corps among Corvette enthusiasts.**
- **Create interest in the Corvette as a true dual-purpose sports car.**
- **Provide a means of technical information and service to members.**
- **Encourage dealer and manufacturer cooperation.**
- **Organize and promote events of a social nature and provide social gatherings for enthusiasts with common interest.**
- **Sponsor or participate in activities to benefit the community through recognized charities as selected by the members of the Association.**

- SOCA Constitution -

Upcoming Meetings

General Membership Meeting, March 1:
7:00 PM, Rogue River Community Center.
Visitors are always welcome!

Get those Vettes ready for another exciting year of cruises and socials!

Events & Activities

February 18 – SOCA Social. Elmer's Restaurant, 6:00 P.M. 175 NE Agness Ave., Grants Pass. NOTE: Take Exit 55 on I-5. Turn right at the first stop light. Dave Siddon talk on the SEMA Car Show he and Dan Calvert in Las Vegas.

March 1 – SOCA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River

March 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins!

March 18 – SOCA Social. Details TBD

March 20 – First day of Spring…….GET THE CARS READY!!!!!!!

April 5 – SOCA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River

April 8 – Pear Blossom Parade. Details TBA.

April 14 – 16, Medford Rod & Custom Show. Jackson County Fairgrounds. $10 adults, $8 seniors and kids.

April 16 – Easter Sunday

May 3 – SOCA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River

May 14 – Mother's Day.

May 20 – SOCA Social. Details TBD

May 29 – Memorial Day

June 7- SOCA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River

June 18 – Father's Day, June 21 – Summer Begins!

June 24 – Rooster Crow Parade, Rogue River. Details TBA

July 5- SOCA General Membership Meeting, Rogue River Community Center, Rogue River

July 14 – 15 CORVETTE WEEKEND!

OTHER EVENTS: July 4 - Eagle Point Parade, Sept. 16 – Lake of the Woods Car Show & December – Grants Pass Christmas Parade. Details TBD

For additional events, information and links, go to the S.O.C.A. website Events Page
http://www.sovette.com/default.asp?pg=activities

Techin & Toolin

Battery Chargers -Light Your Fire **by The Vette Nut's**

The automotive battery is the power source that drives every energy consuming component in an automotive system. A poorly maintained, underpowered power source will cause modern and older automotive systems to exhibit both drivability and reliability problems. Most of us gear heads take the battery in our cars for granted. We do not usually pay much attention to our trusty old battery until it fails. This lack of concern is due in part to the reliability of the modern car battery.

Automotive batteries provide a nominal 12-volt potential difference by connecting six galvanic cells in series. Each cell provides 2.1 volts for a total of 12.6 volt at full charge. Lead-acid batteries are made up of plates of lead and separate plates of lead dioxide, which are submerged into an electrolyte solution of about 35% sulfuric acid and 65% water. This causes a chemical reaction that releases electrons, allowing them to flow through conductors to produce electricity. As the battery discharges, the acid of the electrolyte reacts with the materials of the plates, changing their surface to lead sulfate. When the battery is recharged, the chemical reaction is reversed: the lead sulfate reforms into lead oxide and lead. With the plates restored to their original condition, the process may now be repeated.

In normal automotive service the vehicle's engine-driven alternator powers the vehicle's electrical systems and restores charge used from the battery during engine cranking. When installing a new battery or recharging a battery that has been accidentally discharged completely, one of several different methods can be used to charge it. The most gentle of these is called trickle charging. Other methods include slow-charging and quick-charging, the latter being the harshest.

Some manufacturers include a built-in hydrometer to show the state of charge of the battery. This acrylic "eye" has a float immersed in the electrolyte. When the battery is charged, the specific gravity of the electrolyte increases (since all the sulfate ions are in the electrolyte, not combined with the plates), and the colored top of the float is visible in the window.

When the battery is discharged (or if the electrolyte level is too low), the float sinks and the window appears yellow (or black). The built-in hydrometer only checks the state of charge of one cell and will not show faults in the other cells. In a non-sealed battery each of the cells can be checked with a portable or hand-held hydrometer. Batteries will last longer if not stored in a discharged state.

Sulfation occurs when a battery is not fully charged, and the longer it remains in a discharged state the harder it is to overcome the sulfation. This may be overcome with slow, low-current (trickle) charging. Sulfation is due to formation of large, non-conductive lead sulfate crystals on the plates; lead sulfate formation is part of each cycle, but in the discharged condition the crystals become large and block passage of current through the electrolyte.

Ok now that we have somewhat of a handle on the basics we can come up with some simple solutions to your lack of attention to this very important component in the automotive system. If your special ride is a garage or trailer queen it is probably hidden away in the garage under a protective cocoon. Lack of exercise and long storage periods will cause the best of batteries to loose most of their oomph. Unless you enjoy replacing batteries on a regular basis you need to find a way to rejuvenate that power box.

CTEK Battery charger - The MULTI US 3300 is a versatile and compact battery charger designed to easily charge and maintain all types of vehicles batteries including Optima gel type batteries. The charger features a special cold mode that enables you to charge a battery during cold winters days without problems.

The MULTI US 3300 has a water resistant and weatherproof design that enables its use in damp environments. In our test we hooked up the multi 3300 to a discharged 650 amp marine battery starting battery. The hookup was easy, red alligator clip to positive terminal and black alligator clip to negative terminal. No rocket science here.

The battery initially measured 12.2 volts, after about 12 hours of charging a fully charged indicator light was displayed on the unit. We liked the chargers small size, simplicity and weather resistant design. The only tradeoff is the long charging time. The unit is manufactured in Sweden and is priced at about $115.

Save-a-Battery - The Save-a-Battery is a fast, 50-watt 2x Battery charger. After charging the unit then automatically switches to maintenance/monitoring mode. By varying current and voltage in a deeper cycle, it desulfinates a battery, and extends its life without overcharging. A low voltage alarm monitors the battery and sounds before damage occurs from discharging.

The manufacturer claims that you can leave the unit permanently connected, with no risk of overcharging. A built in voltmeter also lets you test your wiring and charging system. the large LCD screen and bright LED bank make it easy to monitor battery voltage, charging mode, connection status, and overall battery health. The LCD display can be turned off while charging or maintaining for long-term storage.

The unit is equipped with modular plug-in cables with three types of battery connectors. The charger comes with a 10' foot long AC power cord; and gold-plated connectors for reliability in damp garages and boathouses. The "No-sparks" polarity protection prevents operation if you screw up the connection to your battery.

The Save A Battery 12-Volt Battery Charger Maintainer and Tester comes with a 6-foot 5-Amp battery terminal lug cable, a 6-foot alligator clip cable, a 6-foot cigarette lighter adapter cable, a 10-foot AC power input cable, and a mounting bracket for permanent wall or vehicle installation.

We set up our test on a 750amp starting battery that resided in the engine bay of a C5 Corvette. The battery was in a state of severe drain from under use and was due for replacement. We connected the Save a Battery unit as per the instruction manual. The LCD read out measured 12.2 volts at startup.

To our surprise the unit recharged the battery in less than two hours. This rivaled the performance of much larger chargers. Guess what we don't need to replace the battery (immediately) anymore. This magic box seems to have brought the old battery back to life. We give this product a definite thumbs up, it is reasonably priced at about $99.

Battery Tender Plus - The Battery Tender Plus battery charger delivers 1.25 amperes during bulk charge mode, holds the battery charge voltage constant at 14.4 VDC during absorption charge mode until the battery charge current drops to 0.1 amperes at which time it then automatically switches to a float charge mode.

During float charge mode, the output voltage of the Battery Tender Plus battery charger is 13.2 VDC, which is well below the gassing voltage of a lead acid battery. This keeps the battery topped off, while minimizing any detrimental effects to do gassing. The Battery Tender Plus battery charger is able to perform these complex switching functions because its electronic circuitry is controlled by an on board microprocessor. The unit is manufactured by Deltran and is priced at about $60.

Schumacher – This is a microprocessor-controlled smart charger that will automatically decrease the current and voltage as the battery nears full charge. At full charge, it will either shut off or reduce voltage so as not to overcharge the battery. This maintenance capability can make a seldom-used battery last seven to eight years instead dying in two years or less. Schumacher maintenance chargers are priced from about $40 and up depending on the model.

Disclaimer - Discretion is advised. The preceding information may not apply to specific vehicles or all circumstances. Always refer to the manufacturer's specifications, service manuals, technical data and product information.