



Welcome
to the
Top of the Rockies Corvette Association

Introduction to TORCA

We are the **Top of the Rockies Corvette Association (TORCA)**. Welcome, and thank you for joining our club. This guide is designed to help you learn about our club and how it operates.

TORCA was formed in June 1985 and is a member of the **National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC)**. We are part of NCCC's Rocky Mountain Region, which encompasses the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Utah. Through the national and regional networks, our club stays informed of events across the country. By being members of NCCC, we have standardized rules for all of our activities and are provided with liability insurance for our events.

CLUB MISSION:

The purpose of our club is to provide Corvette owners with many ways to enjoy their cars. Our club brings together Corvette owners in a social environment so that they can take part in organized events and raise funds for charities.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	Bruce Zuccaro	bz@financier.com	303-682-3000
Vice President:	Jackie Herrmann	philherrmann@q.com	970-785-1400
Secretary:	Cheryl Clifton	bcclifton@juno.com	303-772-5294
Treasurer:	Sandy Knappmiller	jsknapps@gmail.com	303-485-9550
NCCC Governor:	Barb Reynolds-Zornes	barbzornes@comcast.net	719-599-0772
Board Member:	Tracy Hagar	two_corvettes@yahoo.com	970-685-4501
Board Member:	Chuck Hohn	cshohn@gmail.com	303-678-8519

CLUB MEETINGS:

Regular meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, January through November, at The International House of Pancakes, 1250 S. Hover St., Longmont CO. We meet at 6 p.m. for dinner. Our business meeting begins promptly at 7 p.m., and we normally adjourn at 8 p.m.

CLUB COMMITTEES:

To help organize our many events, TORCA has three committees:

- The social committee handles our Mystery Meals, overnight trips, parties, picnics, and many other just-for-fun activities.
- The racing committee organizes all racing-related events and keeps the rest of us informed about races sponsored by other clubs.
- The car show and rallye committee, as the name implies, organizes the car shows and rallyes sponsored by our club. We typically host one big car show in May and the All Hallows Eve Rallye in October. In addition, this committee also handles our participation in local parades.

All these committees depend on input and help from the rest of the club, so please think about which committee interests you the most and volunteer. It's the best way to make the most of your membership!

CLUB WEB PAGE:

Our club is quite proud of our web page, www.torcavettes.com. Check it out for yourself. You'll find links to all kinds of things:

- Rules and recommendations for racing, car shows, rallyes and other events
- Technical information about Corvettes
- Web pages for NCCC, the Rocky Mountain Region, and the other NCCC clubs within our region
- An up-to-the-minute calendar of all upcoming events in the Rocky Mountain Region
- Photographs of many of our past events
- Photographs of each of our members' cars
- Information about members' cars for sale
- Web pages for the businesses that have supported our events and the charities that we raise money for
- Information on buying club shirts and other club-related apparel

Our webmasters are Ron Bauer and Chuck Riblett. Their email addresses are in the club directory, which you can obtain from the club secretary. Our webmasters pride themselves on keeping the web page current so, as soon as possible, please send them a digital photograph of each of your Corvettes. If you don't have a digital camera, just come to an event and ask someone to snap a photo of you and your car. We're happy to do it!

CLUB COMMUNICATION:

As much as possible, we use email to spread the word about upcoming events and other club-related news. But, not to worry if you don't have an email address; just let the secretary know and she will snail-mail you all the important stuff.

CLUB BYLAWS:

TORCA operates under a set of short-and-sweet rules. Rather than print them here, we've placed a link on our club's web page so that you can read through our bylaws. You can also use the web page to check out the bylaws for the Rocky Mountain Region as well as the latest NCCC rule book.

NCCC Events

NCCC (pronounced “en triple-C”) was founded in the United States as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization by a small group of Corvette owners and enthusiasts in 1959. The purpose of NCCC was (and still is) to promote interest in Corvette ownership, to publish information on the use and operation of the Corvette, and to encourage others to own and enjoy America’s Sports Car.

In the early days, the number of clubs was rather small, with all of them located east of the Mississippi River. Today, however, there are nearly 16,000 members in 267 clubs in 16 regions both east and west of the Mississippi, making NCCC the largest non-profit, all-volunteer Corvette organization in the United States.

Corvette drivers are a unique breed of individuals. The Corvette will transform even the meekest of men and women into competitors thirsting for challenge and striving for perfection so beautifully portrayed in the design and operation of their machine. A feeling of pride is every Corvette owner’s reward.

SANCTIONED EVENTS:

In 1965 the NCCC Sanctioned Competition Program began, and it has grown vastly since then. The purpose of the program is to encourage the members of different NCCC clubs to take part in activities together. The program provides uniform and fair standards under which individual Corvette clubs may sponsor competition events. These rules are outlined in the NCCC Rulebook, which you can link to from our web page.

The Sanctioned Competition Program depends entirely on voluntary participation by clubs and their members. If you decide to take part, please remember that NCCC events are sporting events to be conducted in a sporting spirit, that all events are organized and managed by amateurs who cheerfully give their time and do their best, that things might not go perfectly; and that, to a reasonable extent, these things are a part of the chance you take in entering competition in the events.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SYSTEM:

Clubs and individuals participating in the NCCC Sanctioned Competition Program can compete for the annual Points Championship at the national and regional levels. After the competition season ends, the clubs and individuals who finish high in the national or regional point standings are recognized with awards for their accomplishments. You can earn points by either working or competing at a sanctioned event. In addition, if the event is not sponsored by your own club, you’ll earn an equal number of points for your club. The number and type of points earned depends on a number of factors, which you can read about in the NCCC rulebook.

AUTOCROSSES:

Autocrosses come in two varieties:

- Low-speed races, which usually take place in a parking lot. A course is set up using pylons and is designed to test driving skills. Cars race one at a time against the clock. Typically the course is less than a mile long, and speeds are under 80 mph. No previous experience is necessary, and veterans are always willing to help you get started.
- High-speed races, which usually take place on a track. In these events, speeds typically exceed 80 mph. To participate, you must have a high-speed license, which generally means you have competed in a number of low-speed events first. For details, though, talk with the club’s NCCC governor.

RALLIES:

A rally is something like the directions you give a friend for getting to your new house in the suburbs. It is more than a test of your ability to follow directions, more than intense observation. It includes an aptness for doing seventeen things at once, sometimes including the adherence to a timetable speed of, let's say, 28.8 miles an hour. It's enjoyable, and rallies can produce a piece of silverware to place on the bookshelf and then keep polished.

CAR SHOWS:

Most of the car shows in which TORCA participates are of the "Show-n-Shine" or "People's Choice" variety. These shows don't require thorough cleaning with Q-tips and toothpicks, since the judging is generally performed by the attendees of the show. There are separate classes for each Corvette generation, as well as classes for custom and specialty Corvettes. The judging criteria are very subjective, and the winning cars often have some type of customization that is unique or particularly eye-catching. Trophies are usually awarded to the top 3 in each class.

Concours d'Elegance shows are occasionally held as a part of the regular car shows, but they may be held at a separate venue entirely. A Concours is a show or contest of vehicles and accessories in which the entries are judged chiefly on excellence of appearance and turnout. The Corvette Concours is the display of fine individual examples of the Corvette marquee. Many shows include models from the 1950s solid axle cars, and the ever-popular 1960s midyear cars, the 1970s and the high-tech cars of the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. These examples of the Corvette's aesthetic beauty, as well as its engineering excellence, are grouped in classes and judged on a point structure designed to reflect the degree of each unit's individual excellence.

TORCA Events

TORCA puts on many great events throughout the year, and we just couldn't do it without all the volunteer involvement from our members. This year, we're sponsoring two big car shows, a driving school, an autocross, and a rally. In addition, we have monthly Mystery Meals, parties and other social gatherings. Check out the calendar on the web page for the dates of all these upcoming events.

The best way to find out how the club works is to volunteer. We encourage all members to step forward, knowing that many others in the club are experienced and very willing to help you. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our club and the reason we have been so successful over the years.

MYSTERY MEALS:

As one of our key social events, TORCA members hold a monthly Mystery Meal. The concept is simple: One member selects a restaurant but doesn't tell anyone else what it is. Everyone meets at an appointed location, from which they caravan over a circuitous route to the restaurant. It's a chance to have a great meal at a new restaurant while bonding with other club members.

Taking part in a Mystery Meal is great fun, and so is hosting one. Because this event is relatively easy to organize, it's a great way for new members to get involved. You just pick a date (often a Sunday afternoon) and then pick a restaurant.

Here are some tips we've picked up over the years for hosting an enjoyable Mystery Meal. When picking the restaurant, make sure:

- It can comfortably seat about 30-40 people.
- It's willing to reserve enough tables or a separate room for you.
- It offers a variety of foods at reasonable prices.
- It's willing to provide each couple with a separate check.
- The parking lot is big enough for everyone to park together without risking door dings.

When selecting the route:

- Choose a starting point with a big parking lot and a nearby restroom.
- Stay on paved roads.
- Avoid congested areas, traffic lights, and left turns across busy streets.
- Try to keep the route to an hour or less.

A few weeks before the date, send everyone an invitation with the date, meeting place, and departure time. Ask them to RSVP at least three days in advance so you can give the restaurant an exact number. That way, the restaurant will be ready for you when you arrive.

At the meeting place on the appointed date, give each driver a sealed "panic envelope" with the address and phone number of the restaurant so they can meet you there if they become separated from the caravan or need to stop for any reason.

That's all there is to it! (Oh, and check out the "Caravan Commandments" on the last page. There's some good advice there, too.)

IMPROMPTU GATHERINGS:

Do you feel like taking a ride to Estes Park on a nice warm summer day? Email or phone other members to see if you can get a following. (You usually can.) All you have to do is pick a time and place to meet and take off. Club members do this throughout the nice-weather months.

That's just how our Mystery Meals got started, and that's how another TORCA tradition began. On a whim, someone suggested that we should all meet up at the A&W Drive-In in Berthoud some evening for a root-beer float. Now it's a once-a-month outing throughout the summer and fall.

Will you start the next great TORCA tradition?

CHARITY EVENTS:

TORCA has always been very involved in raising money for local charities. At the beginning of the year, we select the charity to which we'll donate the proceeds from our fund-raising activities, often one that helps children in our community.

PARADES:

Parades are another activity in which TORCA members participate. Many cities in our area hold annual parades and extend invitations to TORCA to drive our Vettes in their parades.

TORQUERS:

Torquers are a group of members (usually men) who get together every so often in someone's garage to "wrench" on a Corvette. These casual events are generally initiated at the monthly membership meeting, when someone needs mechanical help. And sometimes they're organized just as an excuse to gather together around Corvettes and tools. Projects are generally limited to something that can be accomplished in about an hour or two, like changing the oil and filter, installing a new air box, replacing sway bars, or swapping out disk pads or disks. It all depends on the expertise and motivation of those pitching in to help. Motivation is generally a cold beer and a pizza.

New Corvette owners will really appreciate the advice and guidance of many of the "old sages" in TORCA.

TORQUETTES:

The Torquettes (usually women) get together as well, but they participate in non-car related events. For example, the Torquettes recently got together to share recipes, eat lunch and socialize.

GEEZERS BREAKFAST:

A bunch of mostly retired TORCA men meet every Thursday at 9 a.m. for breakfast at the Mead Cafe, 237 Main Street, in Mead. If you're male and retired (or have the luxury of a Thursday morning off), they'd love to have you join them.

TORCA LADIES BREAKFAST:

While the Geezers are having breakfast in Mead, their wives are having breakfast at Santa Fe Coffee and Burritos, 33 S. Main St., in Longmont. You don't need to live with a Geezer to come; all TORCA ladies are welcome!

Some Final Thoughts

CORVETTE ETIQUETTE:

Here are two rules to live by:

1. Always wave at other Corvette drivers. There's a long tradition behind this custom. It even has its own slogan: "Save the Wave." Google it, and see.
2. Never leave a stranded Corvette owner beside the road without stopping to offer assistance or without at least calling for help.

CARAVAN COMMANDMENTS:

If you're taking part in a caravan for a Mystery Meal or some other event, here are some important things to keep in mind:

1. Arrive at the meeting point with a full tank of gas and an empty bladder.
2. Go the speed limit.
3. Keep three car lengths between you and the car in front of you.
4. Allow other traffic in.
5. If the car in front of you pulls off the road, pull off too.
6. If the caravan needs to change lanes, the last car should change lanes first and then block for the rest of the caravan.
7. Don't pass other cars in the caravan.
8. Pay attention, and use common sense.
9. If you're using radios to communicate with each other, avoid unnecessary chatting on the radios if the caravan is long. But do keep the caravan leader informed about any problems that come up.

FUTURE CORVETTE OWNERS ASSOCIATION (FOCA):

FOCA is the youth organization of NCCC. It's a unique "Corvette Club for Kida" formed to interest the younger generation in the Corvette hobby. FOCA members are the foundation of NCCC's future and hopefully will go on to be active NCCC members. You can find additional information about FOCA on the www.corvettesnccc.org web site.