

You have a

Corvette



**now
what?**

by Jerry Golvidis



So here you are with your new automotive dream car acquisition. That 1957 Chevy, 1967 Chevelle, a **Corvette** of any age. What now? You could just, well, drive it. Nothing wrong with that. or, you could actually get *involved* with it. Here are some of those options;

1. Join a club

A good first step would be to join a club representative of your car. A Mustang group, or a Mopar club, a hotrodders group, or in our case a Corvette club. In our area of the Calumet region there are numerous of each. You will find others with your automotive interest in your club. There usually is some dues associated with joining a club, but for that you will find others with your automotive interests there. Most car clubs will offer meetings and activities centering around your car. Anyone can belong as long as you own the car of the particular group. It is a great way to meet new people!



2. Cruise with the club

Many clubs offer optional after or before meeting cruises. A "cruise" refers to taking a leisurely drive with the club members. Usually a destination is chosen, maps given



out, then members line up with their cars and travel in a caravan to the destination. In the case of a "cruise", **the travelling is the priority.** The destination is secondary.

That means the "long way around" is usually the route. Care is taken during the cruise to keep in a caravan in order to display a uniform pride for your organization, and to make sure no one gets lost. Sometimes in special circumstances, a police escort may even be provided. It is common to have people watch with excitement and wave as the caravan passes by. The best cruise is one that avoids city traffic and gets to the open road. Cruises can be for 30 minutes or as long as days, depending on the destination. In years past, the Crown Point Corvette Club has cruised to The Black Hills, and many, many locations. After the cruise people may decide to go their own way whenever they want.



3. **"Cruise-In" or "Cruise Night"**

A "cruise night" is sort of an informal showing of your car. A location is offered by an organization (with permission, Blue Top for example, and all varieties of cars driven by car enthusiasts meet during a time frame (usually 3 to 4 hours) and just park for the evening (weather permitting). Lawn chairs



are added and you wind up with a "car social" of sorts. You get a chance to see all sorts of cars and again meet new people. There are usually no fees or judging for awards at a cruise in, just a free fun time to show your car. In the last few years cruise nights have become so popular

on summer nights that every week night there is one going on somewhere you are sure to pass. If you have been to Blue Top on a weekend night in the summer, then you have been to a

cruise night. Some local examples would be the Lansing, IL, Whiting, Crown Point and now the defunct Valpo Haley Davidson Friday night cruises. You can check the Crown Point Corvette Club website for cruise nights, dates and locations.



4. Car Show *

A car show is much more formal than a cruise in. Shows are for the owner to really show the pride of ownership and workmanship of his automobile. There is usually a set weekend day and time from around 9 am to 3 pm. with a possible rain date offered. It is usually hosted by a particular organization like a church, car club, auto dealership and is governed by rules and regulations. Many times, show profits are donated to a chosen charity. There is also an entry fee (\$20.00 or so) and your car is actually judged by one or more judges during the timespan.



Your car is assigned a class that may be based on make, model, and year as well as stock or modified. You are judged against only those cars in your assigned class. Points are awarded as to the best in the judged items. Some of those items are,; overall

cleanliness, detail (like clean wheel wells) an unusual addition to your car, condition, age, engine, interior, proper operation (opening windows, convertible tops) Judges may vary from show to show. Sometimes they are very thorough and picky, sometimes they just look it over. Some shows are People's

Choice, where spectators vote, or the judges may even act professional. (I have seen judges use "the white glove test" on wheel wells, or nail someone for a missing tire valve cap.) After



everyone has been judged and scores totaled winners are officially announced. There is usually a First, Second, Third place for EACH classification and also sometimes a Best of Show award. Prizes are either trophies or plaques with your car

classification on it. Sometimes photos are taken and you get a plaque with your name and car on it. Many times, it is not only a car show, but food, music, bathrooms, and entertainment is also provided. Most shows offer sign up goodie bags of car wax, fountain pens, etc. Car show season is from May through Oct. Also, to avoid a perfect score without merit, many shows will not allow "showroom new" (100 miles or less on them.) cars to enter. Believe it or not, people have tried to do that.

* A note here about classifications of Corvettes in shows. Due to the 50 years plus of Corvettes and the 7 Generations, you should **not** assume you will be classed according to Generation. If so, that would mean over 20 possible awards given to the Corvette group alone. Show organizers will not want to do that, nor could they afford to, and other car make owners complain of "too many Corvettes!!" So, classifications are usually according to year making only 2, 3 or 4 at most classes. Thus, a C4 owner *may* find themselves competing with



C3's or C5's, C6's etc. (I know, it is dumb, but they don't care about Corvettes like we do) A common break point is the C1's and 2's together in a class, C3's alone **or** with C4's, and/or C4's, C5's, C6's, and even C7's together. An exception to that would be in a Specialty car show for Corvettes **ONLY** such as described below.

5. Specialty Car Show



This is a car show that has all the elements of the standard car show listed above, except that the entries are for a **particular car ONLY**. (Mustang, Charger, hotrod, Corvette) In the case of a Corvette only show, classification would be by Generation 1 - 7. Specialty shows are usually sponsored by

the particular car association of the host. For these shows, judging is usually **VERY** particular.

6. Elite Car Show (Bloomington Gold for Corvettes) Nationwide show.

These shows allow **ONLY** the best of the best to participate. There is a large entry fee and they are judged by seasoned professionals to extreme standards.....

I once witnessed the judge using a level to measure the straightness of the model emblem on the car. Jay Leno is well known in these realms. I hope this info has been of use to you.



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www.CrownPointCorvetteClub.org