

The Solid Scoop



A Newsletter for
the Southern Calif.
Chapter of the
Solid Axle Corvette
Club

December 2020

"We don't judge, we just keep them on the road"

Vol. 16 No. 4

See us on the web at www.socalsacc.com

On the cover: Fred Kokaska's '61 lapping the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana at the Caffeine & Cars event, Feb 8 2020.

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SoCal Planned Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Organizer</u>
Feb 6, 2021	SVRA Car Show	Auto Club Speedway	Joe LeMay
TBD	Ridge Route Tour	Santa Clarita	Joe LeMay

SoCal SACC New Members – Welcome!

<u>Name</u>	<u>C1 owned</u>	<u>Location</u>

In Memoriam: *SoCal SACC member George Iverson passed away of Covid-19. George was a Vietnam Veteran Marine. He received the Purple Heart. He was 73 years old. Our thoughts are with his family.*

Editor's Note:

I hope everyone is doing well during these trying times. With our events being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this issue is mainly "how to" articles. Also, I have recently started a new job which consumes a lot of my time, so I will be stepping down as the Scoop editor after this issue. I have enjoyed working on The Scoop and would like to thank all the people who assisted me with content over these past two years. See you at the next event! Fred Kokaska (fkokaska@yahoo.com), SCOOP Editor



Solid Axle Corvette Club
 A National Organization dedicated to
 keeping these Corvettes
 "on the road".

Club Features:

- Membership Chapter Clubs across the U.S.
- National Quarterly Magazine
- Annual National Convention
- Web Site: www.solidaxle.org (non-profit affiliation)

**Also visit the
 SACC National
 Web Site**

www.solidaxle.org

The Solid Scoop is a quarterly Newsletter published for the Southern California Chapter of the Solid Axle Corvette Club (SoCalSACC). The SoCalSACC Chapter is affiliated with the National Solid Axle Corvette Club (SACC). The SACC organization is a non-profit group with the intended purpose of bringing together owners and those interested in the early C-1 Corvettes (1953–1962) to help in appreciating these vehicles and “keep them on the road”.

C-1 Ownership is not a requirement for membership.

MEMBERSHIP: A prerequisite to become a SoCal SACC Chapter member, a person must belong to the National SACC. Applications for membership are available on our Chapter Web Site, www.socalsacc.com. Submitting an application along with the appropriate listed dues, is necessary for membership. The SoCal SACC Chapter will forward your National dues to assure your National membership. Once becoming a National member you will receive *On Solid Ground*, the National quarterly published magazine. Again, **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: WWW.SOCALSACC.COM**

The Solid Scoop, is intended as a communication for Chapter members about chapter activities, technical articles, classified ads and past events to maintain in keeping our membership informed. The Editor and the Board of Directors of So Cal SACC have made every effort to ensure that the *Solid Scoop* contains no inaccuracies or errors, either in technical articles, tour information, listings regarding flyer and non-flyer events or in advertisements and is non-offensive and non-political and disclaim liability for any that may occur. Should you find any problem, please do not hesitate to contact the Editor. We will make every reasonable effort to rectify the situation.

Member submitted technical articles are encouraged. Many times these technical articles are based on personal experiences and preferences and as such are intended only as guidelines or helpful information for club members.

**Solid Axle Corvette Club
 Southern California Chapter Board
 2020 Club Officers**

ELECTED BOARD OFFICES

President	Phil Roche	pdr44@aol.com
Vice President	Nyma Ardalan	nyma@ardalan.org
Secretary	Larry Pearson	lpears1941@att.net
Treasurer	Barry Charles	bcharles@bcforensiccpa.com

VOLUNTEER OFFICES

Technical Manager	Joe LeMay	jlemay5@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Fred Kokaska	fkokaska@yahoo.com
Membership	Barry Charles	bcharles@bcforensiccpa.com
Merchandising Manager	Barry Caires	barrycaires@att.net
Events Manager		
Webmaster	Jim Lundal	jlundal43@gmail.com
SACC Western Reg. Rep.	Bill & Debi Stalder	stalder53@yahoo.com

TECH ADVISORS

1953 – 1955	Bruce Fuhrman	805-377-1027	bruce4info@aol.com
1956 – 1957	Chip Werstein	818-554-6560	chipsgarage@aol.com
1958 – 1960	Chip Werstein	818-554-6560	chipsgarage@aol.com
1961 – 1962	Larry Pearson	818-848-2653	lpears1941@att.net
Electrical	Joe Fekete	760-954-8060	joe_w_92392@yahoo.com
Body & Paint			
Interior	John Engelhardt	714-267-9996	littlejohns@sbcglobal.net



Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of your SoCal SACC Board of Directors I hope this message finds you and yours healthy, safe and "busy" during this COVID-19 pandemic we are all suffering through together. But that being said, what a time it is to get caught up on all our projects, home and automotive and whatever. Hopefully you're a little more organized than I am and making good progress on all your endeavors.

2020 is and has been one heck of a year on many fronts, and one we won't soon forget. Due to the pandemic, and something I'm sure you are aware of, our chapter along with all other clubs I know of have had to curtail most if not all their activities during this past year and it looks like it will continue into 2021, hopefully not for long. Because of this, the SoCal Board has decided to WAIVE the CHAPTER dues for 2021. The National dues (\$45) are still due and payable, you can't get away from that, it's still a requirement to be a National member before you can join a chapter. So please complete the attached renewal page and make your check out to "SACC" for \$45 and mail it to OUR treasurer, Barry Charles, at the address on the attached form, just like you did last year.

This notice is very late due to yours truly, so please get me out of trouble with Barry and send in your NATIONAL dues (\$45 only) to Barry by Dec.1st! He will take care of the rest for you.

To repeat, NO chapter dues for 2021, National dues (\$45) still a requirement, send your check for \$45 to BARRY today, what a deal !! Know anybody that should join SoCal ? Now's the time, sign 'em up !! This deal may not be repeated.

Our major chapter expense is the printing and mailing of the quarterly newsletter, The Solid Scoop. Because of the waving of the chapter dues for 2021 we will not be mailing out the newsletter in order to keep the club annual expenses to a minimum. Sure hope you understand, the on-line edition will have to do for now. No one loves the ol' printed Scoop more than I, but times do change things, and speaking of change, we are looking for a new Newsletter Editor for the Scoop. Fred Kokaska has got a new job and will not have the time to continue as editor, and congratulations Fred !! But, that sure puts us (me ?) in a hole, so if you or anyone you know would like to fill the Editor's position PLEASE step forward.

The Board and I look forward to the time we can all get together at future events when it is safe to do so. Events are in the works, it's just we can't implement them until the ban is lifted. Again I hope this finds everyone healthy, safe and getting thing done. There is kind of a silver lining to all this "stuff" (you can supply your own words) you just have to look for it a little harder.

If you have any questions concerning this posting, don't hesitate to contact me.

Stay SAFE and HEALTHY and HAPPY my friends, we'll get through this together.

Phil Roche
SoCal Chapter President
SACC

pdr44@aol.com

**Southern California Solid Axle Corvette Club (SoCal SACC)
Chapter & National Dues Notice –2021**

SoCal SACC membership requires current membership in the National SACC organization. For recordkeeping purposes SoCal SACC collects both the National and Chapter dues and remits to National your dues. **Please do not pay National directly.**

SoCal SACC annual dues for 2021 are **\$0**, and the National SACC dues are **\$45** for a total of **\$45**. Annual dues are now payable and are due no later than December 1st. **Please do not pay National directly.**

SoCal Chapter publishes ***“The Solid Scoop”*** and SACC publishes ***“On Solid Ground”***.
Our Chapter website is: ***www.SoCalSACC.com***

I would like to volunteer for the National “Road Assistance” list for members traveling.

If not checked you will not be on the National “Roadside Assistance” list

I do not wish to be included in the National SACC published roster

If not checked you will be on the National SACC published roster

Please fill out the information below. If you are renewing your membership and have no changes simply enclose your check for **\$45**. **Please do not pay National directly**

Make checks payable to: SoCal SACC and mail to:

Barry Charles / SoCal SACC Membership
19528 Ventura Blvd
Box 255
Tarzana, CA 91356
bcharles@bc-forensiccpa.com
Phone 818-645-1109

Member Name _____

Co-Member Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail (please print clearly) _____

Corvettes presently owned – Please include VIN for all C1’s. C1 ownership not required for membership.

Auto liability carrier and policy number _____

Thermal Barrier Installation – Bob Brown

Editor's note: Member Bob Brown replaced the seat covers and carpet in his well-driven 1959 over the summer. He took the opportunity to also install a thermal barrier under the carpet. He submitted the following photos and comments to share with us.



"I finally put in the last screw and finished the installation of new seat covers and carpet in the 59 Vette. It took me forever because of the heat! I could work a couple of hours early in the morning, and then most evenings from 7 or 8 to 10pm when it would cool off a little bit."



First was the removal of the steering wheel, kick panels, package tray and all interior trim, then it was hours and hours of scraping out all the old glue and foam backing from the old carpet. What a horrible job!

Meanwhile, I was having the seats recovered and new foam installed professionally by an upholstery shop.

Once everything was scraped clean, I installed a thermal barrier (which I did not do when I first restored the car). This was another long and tedious process, and I'm hoping it will pay dividends in the heat when I'm running through the desert on Route 66 in the middle of July or August. Rather than using Dynamat, which is pretty expensive, and is designed more as a sound deadener, I used something called Frost King Duct Insulation which is a thermal barrier designed for home heating ducting. It is only about 1/8" thick and one side is self-sticking. A 1'x15' roll is about \$20; the job took nearly all of two rolls. I bought mine through Amazon, but it is also available at Home Depot. Home Depot also has the special micro-thin silver tape to seal the seams. The roll of tape was about \$13.



- Member Bob Brown, San Diego, CA

Valve Stem Oil Seal Replacement - Fred Kokaska

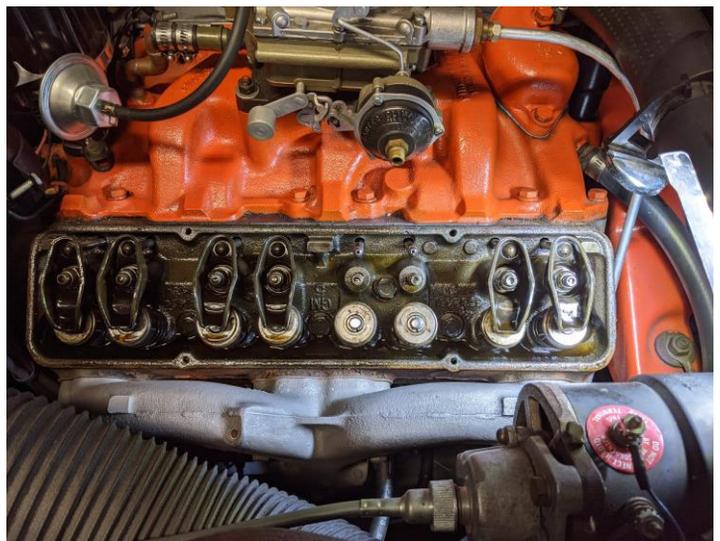
I recently completed this project on my '61 and wanted to share some lessons I learned.

The purpose of the valve stem seals is to prevent oil from being pulled into the valve guide to the combustion chamber and burned. Signs of bad stem seals include smoking (especially on startup), oil-fouled spark plugs, and oil consumption. For my car, I would notice a burnt oil smell upon lifting off the throttle to decelerate, especially down a hill. Originally on our cars, the seals were small rubber O-rings that installed into a groove on the valve stem. Umbrella seals have become a popular upgrade/replacement, and Viton rubber seems to be the best material for these seals. First appearing in the mid 1980's, Viton has good flexibility, and is considered more durable than silicone. I purchased a full set of Viton umbrella seals (16) on ebay for \$18.



In order to access the seals, you must remove the valve springs. This can be done without removing the head from the motor. What makes this a little tricky is that without the springs to hold them up, the valves are free to drop into the cylinder. If that happens, you will need to remove the head to get the valve back out. There are various methods to do this. I chose using compressed air to pressurize the cylinder, holding the valves in place. I used the spark plug adapter from my compression tester, connected to my air compressor, set to 100 PSI. Work on one cylinder at a time and follow this procedure:

- 1) Remove the spark plug
- 2) Loosen and remove both rocker arms completely from the studs
- 3) Tap the edges of the valve springs with a hammer to release the valve keepers (they are often stuck)
- 4) Thread the compression-tester adapter into the spark plug hole and pressurize the cylinder (Caution: The motor will move when you do this – make sure it's not in gear!)





Spark Plug air adapter
(from compression tester)



Valve Spring Compression Tool

- 5) Use a valve spring compression tool to compress one of the springs. Push the spring down to expose the valve keepers. Use a magnet to remove both valve keepers from the stem.
- 6) Pull the spring off the valve
- 7) Remove any remnants of the old seals
- 8) Carefully, install the new seal. Try not to press down on the valve as too much pressure might overcome the compressed air holding the valve up.
- 9) Reinstall the spring and valve keepers
- 10) Repeat steps 5-9 for the other valve
- 11) Tap the edge of the valve springs with a hammer to seat the valve keepers
- 12) Replace the rocker arms (you will need to adjust these later)
- 13) Replace the spark plug

A key tip:

- The valve keepers are tiny and slippery! One disappeared on me while I was fetching the other one. After spending 30 minutes searching for it, I called around to find one at a local parts store. NO ONE had them in stock; NAPA said they could have them by next morning. Meanwhile my compressor is still cycling on and off to keep my valve from falling into the head! I clamped the valve to secure it, and shut down the compressor. I decided to take ONE LAST LOOK for that keeper, and I finally found it snuggled up in the frame rail. I highly recommend you have a few spare valve keepers on hand when you start this project!

SoCal SACC FREE COMMERCIAL VENDOR LIST

C-1 Services by SoCalSACC Chapter Members. Support those in our Chapter.

NOTE: Only those active SoCal SACC Chapter members with a C1 related business/products are eligible to be listed for FREE!

Product or Service	Member Name	Contact Information	Details
<i>Interior Concepts & Design</i>	<i>John Engelhardt</i>	<i>Fountain Valley, CA (714) 435-9448 Shop (714) 267-9996 Cell littlejohns@sbcglobal.net</i>	<i>Complete Interior Restoration Convertible Tops</i>
<i>Vette Garage 53 thru 67 Restorations From Drivers to Concourse</i>	<i>Ron Lefler</i>	<i>(760) 983-5944 Cell (909) 519-7977 rdlef@aol.com</i>	<i>C-1 Hardtop Restoration</i>
<i>American Motoring Memories C-1 Corvette Repairs</i>	<i>Jeff Reade</i>	<i>11375 Playa St., Culver City, (310) 397-3800 FAX (310) 397-6969</i>	<i>All type repairs, Total & Partial Restoration, Engine Overhaul, Consulting, Sales & Service</i>
<i>Corvette Frame Straightening Corvette Restoration 1953 – 1962 Specialist</i>	<i>Walden Dahl</i>	<i>(760) 949-6653 Victorville</i>	<i>Chassis straightening for C1's. We have the attachments to correct any frame problems.</i>
<i>Corvette Mike</i>	<i>Mike Vietro</i>	<i>1133 N. Tustin Av, Anaheim, (714) 630-0700 corvettemike.com</i>	<i>We sell the best..... And service the rest!</i>

Corvette C1 Classified Ads

FOR SALE: REPRODUCTION 1953 to 55 EXHAUST EXTENSION, First style, short extensions, were used from 1953 to 1954 (vin # 2628).. \$875.00, Second style, long extensions, were used after vin #2628 in 1954 thru 1955. \$1525.00, Both styles are made from extruded polished stainless steel, as original. The long extensions have the correct rolled end and metal formed deflector. They all have correct appearing insulators with a die formed steel reinforcement and brass adjusting tabs. I reproduce these myself here in the US. For photos and any questions email Gary at polowhite53@gmail.com.

WANTED: Distributor for 1954 Corvette. Must include mechanical tachometer port and cap. jackhstrong@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: 57-61 dual quad intake. 62 fuel injection base plate, T-10 4 speed empty cases, Corvette valve covers off set holes high script, 6.70 x 15 tires good tread for spares, misc front bumper brackets, vintage Ansen 2 piece cast iron scatter shield, original rear springs several dates, 56-60 copper radiator with good top tank, misc front license bracket pieces, 58-62 steering box, 58-62 speedometer, 58-62 clock. Chip Werstein 818-554-6560 or chipsgarage@aol.com.

FOR SALE: 283 engine 3756519 dated K40 for your early 61 , \$350 - Eric May 805-208-9342

FOR SALE: C1 Dual Quad carbs with intake and linkage. Rebuilt by Chuck Smith; 55-57 Tach restored by Valley Vettes. Joe LaGreca 909-499-5873

WANTED: Pictures, movies, or programs of any 1957 Corvettes at the racetracks, streets, or dealerships in Fresno, Madera, Hanford, Merced, Stockton. Mid Valley California. Ray 570-656-3420 rcdfirst@mail.com.

WANTED: Chevy heads 3748770 or 3755550 with staggered valve cover holes. Eric May 805-208-9342

FOR SALE: Early 1956 Corvette, currently on display at the Petersen Museum in LA; Frame-off original restoration about ten years ago; Black with silver coves, Solid red interior, Early 265cid engine (ram horn exhaust manifold oil dip stick is on passenger's side, Dual quad carburetion (correct early manifold and valve covers), Two speed automatic transmission, Power convertible top, Hard top, Windshield washer, Signal seeking radio, Power windows, Known issues: Window wiper motor not working and not matching numbers, Power top works but needs actuator switch adjustments, Missing jack. \$140,000 invested asking \$100,000. Jim Plowden, Jimp_99@yahoo.com; 310-291-4756



SoCal SACC Merchandise For Sale

Item Description	Price
SoCal SACC decal	\$1
SoCal SACC throw	\$35
SoCal SACC hat (black, white, or grey)	\$25
Woman's tee-shirt (black)	\$20
Men's tee-shirt (black, grey)	\$18
2018 SACC Ventura Convention tee-shirt (light grey)	\$15
Men's 'Make C-1s Great' tee-shirt	\$15
Woman's 'Make C-1s Great' tee-shirt	\$15
SoCalSACC sweatshirt	\$20
SoCal SACC denim shirt	\$35
Long sleeve shirt (black)	\$25
Polo shirt (beige, blue, red, or white)	\$30
Men's jacket (black, red, or beige)	\$55
Men's windbreaker (black, navy, grey)	\$45

Shipping and handling is \$5 flat. Most sizes are available (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Contact Carole Blake (Carole.Vette@att.net) with any questions or to place an order.