



Thunder in the Valley

February, 2012

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

It's February 1st, it's COLD outside, the wind is blowing up huge snow drifts, we're stuck in the houseWHAT? That was LAST year!?! WOW! What a difference a year makes. Last year we had to postpone the Burger War at Bob's Bar due to the Blizzard of 2011!! I'm sure there are going to be reports of "Plastic Cars" having been seen out and about during January and February.

The 1st Burger War of 2012 was held at Bob's Bar on January 25th with 22 attendees and NO SNOW! If you have a suggestion for a local pub/watering hole that serves good burgers, check with a Board Member to see if your date is available and Have At It!

The February meeting will be held at Kool Chevrolet on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m.

February also brings about some (so-called) "Stock Car" racing in J.W.'s Florida backyard. It seems that the 1st race is televised, and Ty Mason is holding a Daytona 500 Watch Party at his shop at 5590 68th St., S.E. (corner of Kraft and 68th) on Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m. BYOB, BYOC (chair) and a snack to pass.

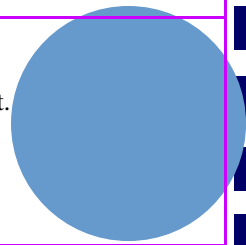
Stay in touch with your car club by reading the monthly newsletter, attending a meeting and/or an event, and better yet, putting on an event!

Save The Wave,

R.D.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dennis Link 7517 Southwood Ave Byron Center MI 49315 (616) 583-0204 charscorvette@comcast.net	Treasurer Karen Young 3750 Hilton Ave SE Lowell MI 49331-9527 (616) 868-6900 karyou47@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor & Webmaster Paula Down 7455 Decosta Drive NE Rockford, Mi 49341-8572 (616) 874-7432 corvettegal@chartermi.net
VP of Competition Roger Schaefer 5770 Preservation Ct. Ada, MI 49301 (616) 676-1340 Roger_S99@yahoo.com	Secretary Cheryl Davis 6855 2 Mile Rd NE Ada, MI 49301-9515 (616) 676-0264 leadfoot1971@gmail.com	Governor Jeff Janus 6650 Twin Springs Ct. Rockford, MI 49341 (616) 560-5200 jjcpj@aol.com
VP of Membership: Todd Tamminga 2625 Cedar Grove South Jenison, MI 49428 (616) 669-8718 todster2@aol.com		Kool Chevrolet Club Sponsor David Bailey 3770 Plainfield NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 Phone 616-364-9431



**Grand Valley Corvette Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President, Dennis Link at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present were: Dennis Link, President; Roger Schaefer, VP of Competition; Todd Tamminga, VP of Membership; and Cheryl Davis, Secretary.

President: Dennis welcomed everyone to the January meeting and introduced Cheryl Davis as the new Secretary, current board members Todd, Roger and himself Denny as the new President. Thanks to the past president Keith Stetler and Lana Burns as Secretary.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the previous month were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Denny reported for Karen Young. The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted. Karen & Dick sent a postcard wishing we were there.

Membership Report: Todd welcomed new member Deb Lowe giving the club 131 members.

Competition Report:: 2012 calendar posted on Mid-Michigan web site. May 19 is the rookie driving school. Location TBA

Previous Business:

December 17 - Christmas Party Paula Down reported 50 people at the party. Pam Amante & Mike Mieras won the costume contest. Laurie Dopke won the trivia contest. A great time had by all.

December 28 - Shorts Party at Broadway - It was a great time, beer was good, great food and Jim & Mary W. were there.

Jan 7- Power Lunch at the Play Station with 21 people attending. Great ideas were suggested to Denny, like volunteering at Gilda Club for some of their Laugh Fest), Progressive Dinner, Brewery/ Wine tour, Vettes for Vets, Judged Car Show, Adopting a Family for Christmas. Any ideas for an event let a board member know and we will help. A suggestion is for a rookie to team up with a senior member to mentor and help them with an event so they feel more comfortable in putting on an event.

Denny received a card from Vickie Briggs thanking the club for the plant and cards for the death of her mother.

New Business:

January 25 The first Burger War at Bob' s Bar on 725 Michigan from 6-9pm

Feb 9 Meeting at Kool 7pm Denny talked with Randy & Tom - if you are interested in a new car talk with one of these guys. Identify yourself that you are with GVCA to receive the discount they are giving the club.

Kool Chevy show is tentative for June 9.

February 26 -Daytona at Ty Masons -BYOB & BYOC (chair) and a snack. Race starts at 1pm arrive around 12:30.

March 10 Scavenger Hunt More details to follow from Downs and Rynbergs.

Keith Stetler -Made a presentation of the new gavel for President Dennis Link. The previous one was dated 1977-1978.

Keith Stetler -- December 22, Keith sent a letter to Spina Bifida and Downs Syndrome along with a check to both that was approved by the club in December. He received a letter from DS thanking us for the check. Spina Bifida sent a letter stating that they have separated from the National Council. Spina Bifida has not cashed their check and we haven' t received any response from them as to if they received the check. Motion is made to hold off on putting a hold on the check until next month to see if we can reach them during there change over. Motion was passed.

April 21 Corvette physical day at Ty Mason's more info to follow.

April 26-29 Spring Trip

Motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Davis Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 9 **General Membership Meeting** -Kool Chevrolet on Plainfield Road—7:00 p.m.
- 26 **Daytona Party**— Ty Mason's Shop 5590 68th ST. S.E. Caledonia MI.—arrive before 12:30 (BYOB, a chair and a snack to pass)

MARCH

- 8 **General Membership Meeting** - TBA—7:00 p.m.
- 10 **Scavenger Hunt—Rynbergs & Downs**—Starting place to be announced—Ending place at Brann's on Leonard Street in basement meeting room at 4 p.m.

APRIL

- 12 **General Membership Meeting** -TBA—7:00 p.m.
- 21 **Corvette Physical Day**—Ty Mason's shop. 5590 68th Street, Caledonia, MI
Start time 10 a.m. You may bring your own oil but Ty does have everything in stock for purchase.
- 26-29 **Spring Trip to Bowling Green, KY**—Tom Anthes—more information in a future newsletter.

MAY

- 5 Greenville Car Show—10:00—3:00 See flyer in newsletter
- 10 **General Membership Meeting** - TBA—7:00 p.m.

JUNE

- 2 **Rockford American Legion 3rd Annual Car Show**— DeltaPlex—more information as it is received
- 9 **Kool Chevy Car Show**—Kool Chevrolet—see attached flyer
- 14 **General Membership Meeting** - TBA—7:00 p.m.

POSSIBLE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YEAR

Game Night
Corvettes for Vets car show
Winery/Beer Tour
Follow the Leader
Pajama Party
Casino/Shopping Overnighter

All bold items are GVCA sponsored events.

[Michigan Region of NCCC Corvette Clubs Home Page and Link to Calendar](http://www.michcorvette.org/index.html)

<http://www.michcorvette.org/index.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOUS, & NOTES

Cards and get well wishes or expressions of sympathy

Please contact Jan Baar at (tjbaar@comcast.net)



Dear Corvette Friends

Thank you for the beautiful
et-flower arrangement that
you sent upon the passing
of my mother. The visits
by those who came to
her visitation & the cards
are gratefully appreciated.

This has been much
more difficult for me than
I expected, as both of my
parents passed in less than
6 months.

Your kindness and sympathy
are more deeply appreciated
than any words of thanks
can ever express

Nicki & Kim
Buggs

Dear Grand Valley friend

Thank you so very
much for the
beautiful bouquet
of flowers, the
many cards and
the friendship of
many at the visitation
for Wally's mother.
We truly appreciate
everyones thoughts
& prayers over these
last few months.

Sincerely,
Wally & Sandy
Glaza



RICK ROOT
FEBRUARY 1



JIM WESTERMUS
FEBRUARY 1



ROGER SCHWADER
FEBRUARY 4



HELEN FINKBEINER
FEBRUARY 12



CHERYL DAVIS
FEBRUARY 15



RON KWIAKOWSKI
FEBRUARY 19



NOT PICTURED
KAREN GILES
FEBRUARY 27



JAN BAAR
FEBRUARY 20



PAT WALL
FEBRUARY 26

Let's Celebrate
HAPPY BIRTHDAY Feb. 2012



BOB LOCKRIDGE
FEBRUARY 28



SALLY ATCHISON
FEBRUARY 28





Down Syndrome Association
of West Michigan *Possibility. Promise. Potential.*

January 2, 2012

Keith Stetler
President, GVCA
4460 Causeway Dr, NE
Lowell, MI 49331

Dear Keith and Members of the GVCA,

On behalf of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan, it is with sincere gratitude that I am writing to thank you for a very generous \$5,000 donation from the Grand Valley Corvette Association. Your continued commitment helps promote awareness and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and is greatly appreciated by those who benefit from our services.

Your donation will be used to support educational workshops and conferences for members, educators and medical professionals on topics relevant to Down syndrome; provide support, informational and referral programs for families and subsidize recreational activities for youth, teens and young adults.

Please feel free to call me at any time if you have questions or would like an update on our activities. If there is any particular way that we can support or promote your organization, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Melissa Werkman
Executive Director
616-956-3488

For tax purposes, please consider this letter your receipt. The Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The tax ID number is #38-2641856. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift.

HI GVCA MEMBERS

HERE IS THE SPRING TRIP INFO

DATE: THURSDAY APRIL 26 TO SUNDAY APRIL 29

DESTINATION: BOWLING GREEN, KY

RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE AT:

BRYCE INN (270) 563-5141, OWNERS ARE BOB AND JACKIE LIGHTFOOT

THEY HAVE A TOTAL OF 25 ROOMS AND HALF ARE ALRIGHT BOOKED, SO BOOK SOONER THAN LATER. LET THEM KNOW YOUR WITH GVCA.

Note from Editor; All rooms have already been booked. If you do not have a room, you might call and get on a waiting list in case there are cancellations.

ONCE THE BRICE INN IS COMPLETELY BOOKED THEN IT WILL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND YOUR OWN ACCOMMODATIONS.

DEPARTURE: THURSDAY APRIL 26 AT 7:00AM SHARP. WE WILL BE MEETING AT SPECTRUM HEALTH WEST PAVILION ON WILSON AND M-6. ESTIMATED TIME OF TRAVEL IS APPROX. 8+ HRS. WE WILL BE PLANNING STOPS ALONG THE WAY.

ONCE WE ARRIVE AT THE BRYCE INN AND GET SETTLED, BOB AND JACKIE ARE PLANNING A COOKOUT AND WE'RE ASKING FOR \$10.00 A PERSON TO COVER THEIR COST AND TIME.

OTHER INFO TBA

THANKS,
TOM AND CHRIS

From your editor: Check out all the events that are happening at the National Corvette Museum the weekend of our spring trip by clicking on this link. I do not know if Tom will be suggesting any of these events, but I thought I would give you a chance to review some of them you might want to attend.

http://www.corvettemuseum.org/registration/c5_bash/info.shtml



Food Drive & Corvette Show

Saturday May 5th From 10-3:00

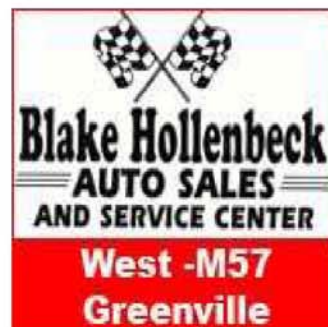
Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales

Please help support the area food pantries by donating food items to this drive. All Area Corvette owners are Welcome to show their cars along with the Greenville area corvette club. Public is Welcome!



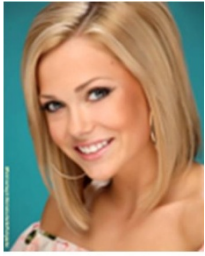
And

www.greenvilleareacorvetteclub.com



2012 Classic Car Show Will Be Bigger Than Ever!

June 2, 2012 Save the date!



Elizabeth Wertenberger
Miss. Michigan

Once again members of Merritt Lamb Post 102 will work together to benefit [Wounded Warriors Project](#), [Pets for Vets](#) and other local veteran projects. With great enthusiasm and dedication the members are determined to make the 2012 show the biggest ever, presenting more than 30 awards.

Highlighting the news regarding this year's show is the relocation to the DeltaPlex, one of Grand Rapids' premiere event hosts. This move assures ample room for growth far into the future and provides options for inclement weather. We welcome the DeltaPlex to our growing list of sponsors and look forward a fantastic show.

Current highlights of the show include:

The currently reigning Miss Michigan, Elizabeth Wertenberger.

America's premier custom auto painter, Mike LaVallee of Killer Paint. www.killerpaint.com

A larger than ever Chili Cook Off

The music of D.J. Jim Stebleton

Auctions

Gifts and more!

We want to let everyone know that since the 2011 show a Pets for Vets has expanded into Michigan with offices in Rockford and Detroit. For more information visit them on Facebook at [Pets for Vets - Michigan](#) or contact Dr. Lori Vorpi at 616-866-1081.

Check back here often for additional information as the date of Michigan's Best Classic Car Show draws near. Those wishing to assist either as a volunteer or sponsor may contact Clyde Sinclair at 616-822-9627.



7th ANNUAL ALL CHEVY SHOW

MUST BE CHEVY POWERED AND CHEVY BODY

SATURDAY JUNE 09, 2012

9AM. TILL 3PM RAIN OR SHINE

***\$10.00 PER ENTRY TROPHIES FOR THE TOP 25
DASH PLAQUES TO THE FIRST 125 ENTRIES***

***Come see the 1953 GM FUTURLINER
Known as the Parade Of Progress***

***Great Food Available from the
Rockford Sports Boosters***

***We will have a special spot and trophy class for all the
NON - CHEVY GM vehicles to be displayed
Olds ,Pontiac, Buick***

***COME JOIN US ON THE PLAINFIELD MOTOR MILE
CONTACT KOOL CHEVROLET 616-364-9431
FOR MORE INFORMATION***

Motor Trend Picks Corvette GS as One of the WORST Cars of 2011



by [Clifton Klaverweiden](#) on January 2, 2012



Corvette fans, brace yourselves because this one might sting a little. The guys at [Motor Trend](#) get to drive a ton of new cars every year, and recently each member of their editorial team picked what they felt was the best and worst car that they drove in 2011. Some of the editors made some great picks for their favorite car, including the [CTS-V Wagon](#) and Boss 302 Mustang. The worst cars list reads just like you might imagine, running down cars like the Nissan Versa and Fiat 500C... until your scanning eyes come across the 2011 Corvette Grand Sport listed as a member of “The Worst” list.

When we read [Corvette Blogger’s initial report](#) that the GS had been named as one of the worst, we had to see for ourselves, and sure enough, there it is. When we read through the list for ourselves, we first thought that it must be just some kind of typo, but it isn’t. Jason Udy, one of M/T’s Associate Online editors, picked the Ferrari 458 Italia as his favorite car of 2011, while tagging the Corvette GS as the worst car he drove all year. He takes it a step further and states that in his opinion the GS felt “like it had no soul.”

Well, you know what they say about opinions... [Check out MT’s list of “Best and Worst of 2011” here.](#)

C4 Corvette + Fake Ferrari Kit = eBay Scam



by [Clifton Klaverweiden](#) on August 29, 2011



Would you be fooled into thinking this was a \$100K Ferrari? Photo: [Camaro5 Member - "MiracleAces](#)

What do you get when you mix a C4 Corvette, a cheesy Ferrari fiberglass replica body, and one naive eBay shopper? You get an angry guy with a fake Ferrari he paid way too much for. We recently came across [a thread on Camaro5.com](#) that tells of this exact situation.

The original poster of this thread says that a middle aged gentleman came into the dealership he works at wishing to trade in his 1989 Ferrari Testarossa. It only took one look and the salesman immediately realized that the would-be exotic was in fact just another poorly executed fiberglass repli-car. When they told the owner that his Ferrari was in fact nothing more than a C4 Corvette with a fake Ferrari body, he became very indignant and insisted that he had the real thing. When the salesman went on to point out the fact that the entire interior of the car was still Chevrolet, the owner showed them his "Official Documentation" from the eBay sale stating that the car had been built in a collaboration between Chevrolet and Ferrari, and still maintained that the car was genuine.

The original poster reports that the gentleman ended up leaving the dealership in an angry haste, and refused to accept the fact that he had been duped. So, let this serve as a reminder: next time you buy a \$100,000 sports car over the internet, at least take the time to run the VIN and make sure it's legit.

Official: 2013 Corvette 427 Convertible Collector Edition

By [MR](#) on January 13, 2012 at 3:03 pm



Chevrolet unveiled the 2013 Corvette 427 Convertible Collector Edition as well as a 60th Anniversary Package that will be available on all 2013 Corvette models. The 60th Anniversary Package and 427 Convertible will make their public debut at the Barrett Jackson collector car auction in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Jan 21, and will arrive at U.S. Chevrolet dealers early this summer.

The Corvette 427 Convertible blends elements of the Z06 and ZR1 models to create the fastest and most-capable convertible in Corvette's history. The American sports car is powered by 7.0 liter LS7 engine from the Corvette Z06. Rated at 505 horsepower and 637Nm of torque, it is the most powerful engine ever installed in a production Corvette convertible – and, like the Z06, the 427 Convertible is only available with a six-speed manual transmission.

The LS7 was co-developed with the Corvette Le Mans-winning GT1 engine and features lightweight titanium connecting rods and intake valves, as well as racing-inspired high-flow cylinder heads and a dry-sump oiling system. It is assembled by hand at GM's Performance Build Center, where customers who purchase the 427 Convertible Collector Edition can purchase the Corvette Build Experience option and assemble themselves the engine that will power their new car.

Other options include the driveline and rear axle system from the Corvette Z06, a rear-mounted battery and standard Magnetic Selective Ride Control. The standard 19 inch front and 20 inch rear wheels are wrapped in ZR1-style Michelin PS2 tires. Lightweight machine-face Cup wheels – introduced on the 2012 Corvette Z06 with Z07 and Corvette ZR1 with PDE performance packages – come standard and include unique gray-painted pockets. Black Cup wheels or chrome ZR1-style wheels are also available.

The 427 Convertible also features several carbon-fiber components that help reduce weight, such as: carbon fiber raised hood (introduced on the 2011 Z06 Carbon Edition), carbon fiber Z06-style fenders and carbon fiber floor panels. The "CFZ" carbon fiber front splitter and rocker panels are optional on the 427 Convertible, and included with the 60th Anniversary package

For 2013, all Corvettes will feature 60th Anniversary badges on the fascias and the "waterfall" panel on convertible models, as well as 60th logos in the instrument panel gauge cluster and on the sill plates.

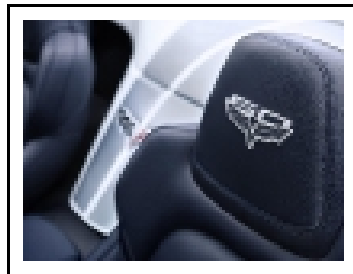
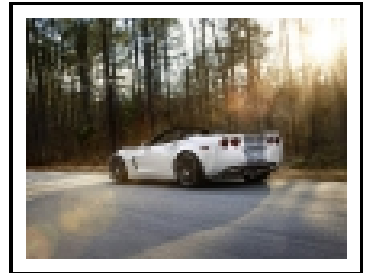
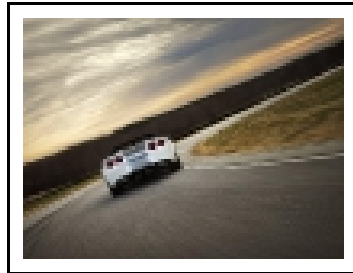
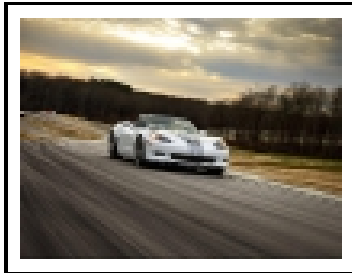
The weight reduction brings the 427 Convertible's curb weight to 1,522kg. Combined with its 505-horsepower LS7 engine, it gives the 427 Convertible a power-to-weight ratio of 6.64 – or one horsepower for every 6.64 pounds of vehicle mass. The 0-60 performance is 3.8 seconds, quarter-mile performance 11.8 seconds, the lateral acceleration of 1.04 g and the top speed is more than 190mph.

The 427 Convertible is available in 2LT, 3LT and 4LT trim levels and will carry a vehicle identification number sequence, similar to the Corvette ZR1.

Corvette 60th Anniversary Package

All 2013 Corvette models, including the 427 Convertible, will be available with a 60th Anniversary Package, featuring an Arctic White exterior with a Blue Diamond leather-wrapped interior with suede accents. Convertible models will have a blue top.

Additional parts include a ZR1-style rear spoiler, special badging, gray-painted brake calipers and the “60th” logo on the wheel center caps, steering wheel and seat headrests. An optional graphics package adds full-length racing stripes in Pearl Silver Blue, including a tonal stripe stitched into the convertible top, extending the graphic theme over the roof.



Official: 2012 Chevrolet Corvette Daytona Prototype

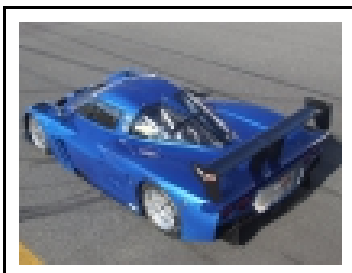
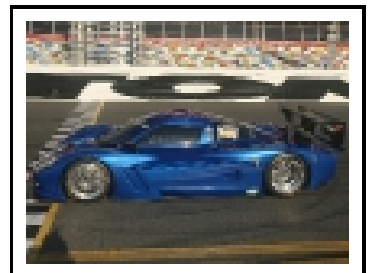
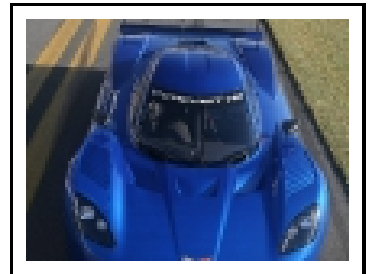
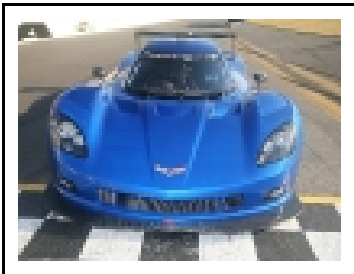
By [MR](#) on November 17, 2011 at 5:56 am



Chevrolet unveiled its 2012 Corvette Daytona Prototype at Daytona International Speedway today. The Corvette Daytona Prototype will make its competitive debut in the 50th anniversary of the Grand-Am Road Racing Series Rolex 24 at Daytona from January 26-29, 2012.

The new Corvette Daytona Prototype will participate in a Grand-Am test at Daytona International Speedway on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Four teams will campaign the Corvette Daytona Prototype in 2012: No. 90 Spirit of Daytona Racing; No. 10 SunTrust Racing; No. 99 GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing, and the Nos. 5 and 9 Action Express Racing teams.



Car Crash: Bizarre Corvette Crash Injures Two People

By [MR](#) on December 5, 2011 at 10:36 am



Saturday night at least two people were injured after a bizarre crash sent a Corvette airborne in Norwood, USA. The Corvette crash in front of Jake & Joes Restaurant about 5:27 PM.

Police officials stated that the woman driving the Corvette came out of the dealership on Route 1 and lost control of the sports car. The car flipped, hit two other vehicles and a pole before landing upside down. The driver was flown to a hospital. One person from one of the other vehicles was also taken to Norwood Hospital.

A witness told [NewsCenter 5](#) that the woman in the Corvette races cars for a living and had stopped at a Chevrolet dealership looking for a faster car. The lot apparently didn't have one so she went to test drive a Ferrari at a nearby dealership. Something happened at the Ferrari dealership which spurred the woman to peel out and then crash a short distance away.