

Wise Guy Wednesday

Q: Wise Guy, you've talked about how important original stuff is for Bloomington judging, but I'm just not clear. My Corvette has both original tops, but the hardtop is not perfect and even though the soft top has an old foggy rear window, the car looks better with just the soft top. So I am thinking of leaving the old, scratched up hardtop at home. And, I have new radials with the same tread pattern that look very much like what came on the car when it was new. The Vette rides so much better with them. Do I have to bring those old, worn out tires/wheels it came with? They ride so rough. And can you clarify; are original worn parts really worth more than new reproduction parts? **Unsure Arnie.**



A: Arnie. There is a phrase we say... "Corvettes are only original once!" You can replace parts that may be a little 'dull' or worn with some new perfect replacement parts. And you bring the car with your new radials instead of the rough riding old original tires. And you can leave the 'not perfect' hardtop at home because your Vette shows better with just the soft top. But, when you are *Going for the Gold*, striving for Bloomington Gold Certification, an original part with minor condition/wear may be worth more than a new reproduction part. Bloomington Gold Standard judging rewards originality. Remember that Bloomington Gold judges your Corvette as compared to how it left the factory. So, original tires are more authentic and worth more points in judging. And the old top that is 'not perfect', is worth a lot more points than not bringing that second top (you would get no points on two lines of the judging sheet if you leave that optional hard top at home). Even with the small components throughout the car, more weight is given to Originality than to Damage /Deterioration - so don't replace the dull old part with a new shiny replacement. It can never be original again!

Bring your Corvette for judging at Bloomington Gold and definitely **bring it with the original stuff** to show it as close as possible to when it first left the factory!

Any questions..... contact **Wise Guy** guy@bloomingtongold.com or 708.906.6000 voice/text

HAPPENING THIS THURSDAY AT