

THE 1978 POLYSPARE YELLOW WHEEL

OVER THE YEARS, CHEVROLET DIVISION equipped Corvettes with “one year only” parts—some of which frustrate owners while others are unremarkable except for perhaps one thing. The “school bus” yellow spare wheel for the Polyspare tire, introduced in 1978 falls into the latter category.

To put the new Goodyear Polyspare into the context of the 1970’s, the push was on for not only reduced emissions but safety and fuel mileage factors as well. The introduction of a spacesaver tire for “temporary use only” required education of the consumer. The challenge to GM was how to get the consumer’s attention and motivate him or her to avoid extended use of a temporary spare? A solution was

simple but also dramatic. Cover the wheel with “school bus” safety yellow paint!

The Goodyear Polyspare was introduced in the 1978 model year. The wheel diameter is 15-inches but the width is only 5-inches (in contrast the standard wheel measured 8-inches wide). The 1978 model year was also the first year for the new “P” metric tires. Chevrolet offered RPO QBS P255/60R15 tires in addition to the standard equipped P225/70R15 tires. The Polyspare is a fabric bias ply construction tire size P195/80D15 blackwall and labeled with “GOODYEAR” and “TEMPORARY USE ONLY” in raised block black letters. Underneath the “TEMPORARY USE



Like other parts and pieces found on the Corvette, the Goodyear Polyspare is also date coded. Here, VIN 9041 with a build date of November 10, 1977 reveals a Polyspare tire with date code of the 43rd week or the week of October 24th.

