

December 2023



The Orange Pits

OC VETTES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone! I want to wish you all a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season. We have had a lot of great activities in the last year, ending with our fabulous Christmas Party at the Alta Vista Country Club.

In 2024 we already have our Route 66 trip on the Calendar for May 1st through May 5th and a possible trip to JPL in March. Of course, there is also the 2024 Caravan to Bowling Green in September.

We need to be thinking about more events and outings for this coming new year. I would like input from ALL our members. Let's come up with some ideas for places to drive our wonderful cars! Please think about day trips, overnight trips, or even multi-day trips. We also need volunteers to host our monthly Socials.

If you need help with putting a trip or social together, please talk to Steve Bronston or any one of the other Board members. We are here to help.

Let's see if we can make 2024 a really fun, event filled year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Leo Mann

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCV Events in Blue and Italic.

For more info contact Leo Mann at 714-323-3599

DATE	EVENT	HOST
<i>Dec 3</i>	<i>OCV Christmas Party, Alta Vista Country Club</i>	<i>Ray and Ellie Cranston</i>
<i>Dec 5</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lytle Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$24 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
Dec 7	HAPPY HANUKKAH!!	
<i>Dec 12</i>	<i>Ladies Bunco @ Sue Walker's/Poker at Bob Burggraf's</i>	
<i>Dec 19</i>	NO SOCIAL IN DECEMBER	
Dec 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	
<i>Dec 26</i>	NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER	
Jan 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	
<i>Jan 2</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lytle Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$24 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>Jan 9</i>	<i>Ladies Bunco @ Lynda Fox's/Poker at Bob Burggraf's</i>	
<i>Jan 16</i>	<i>OCV January Social-Roma D'Italia Tustin</i>	<i>Dave and Lisa Tally</i>
<i>Jan 23</i>	<i>OCV Board Meeting @ Keno's Anaheim Hills</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>March/April</i>	<i>Trip to JPL in Pasadena Date TBD</i>	<i>Bernie DeMarkey</i>
April 6, 2024	Corvette Pirates Cruise	



JOKE(S) OF THE MONTH

What do you call a snowman party?
A SNOW BALL.

What did one Christmas tree say to the other?
You need to LIGHTEN UP.

Where do gingerbread men sleep?
ON COOKIE SHEETS.

Did you hear about the man who wrote a comedy routine about menorahs?
IT WAS JUST A BUNCH OF CANDLE SHTICK.

Why did the dreidel go to the doctor?
IT KEPT GETTING DIZZY SPELLS.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Sue Lookman

CHRISTMAS CRANBERRY CAKE

This **Cranberry Christmas Cake** is one of those recipes that is an instant favorite every single time someone new tastes it. Tart cranberries, sweet buttery cake, and a fantastic texture all combined to basically beg you to eat another piece.



Ingredients

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
3/4 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
12 oz fresh cranberries (frozen cranberries can be used, thaw before mixing)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. With a mixer, beat the eggs with the sugar until slightly thickened and light in color, about 5-7 minutes. The mixture should almost double in size. The eggs work as your leavening agent in this recipe, so do not skip this step.
3. The sugar and egg mixture should form a ribbon when you lift the beaters out of the bowl.
4. Add the butter and vanilla; mix 2 more minutes. Stir in the flour until just combined.
5. Add the cranberries and stir to mix throughout.
6. Press the dough into a buttered 9×13 pan and spread it out.
7. Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until very lightly browned and a toothpick inserted near the center of the cake comes out clean.
8. Let cool completely before cutting into small slices.

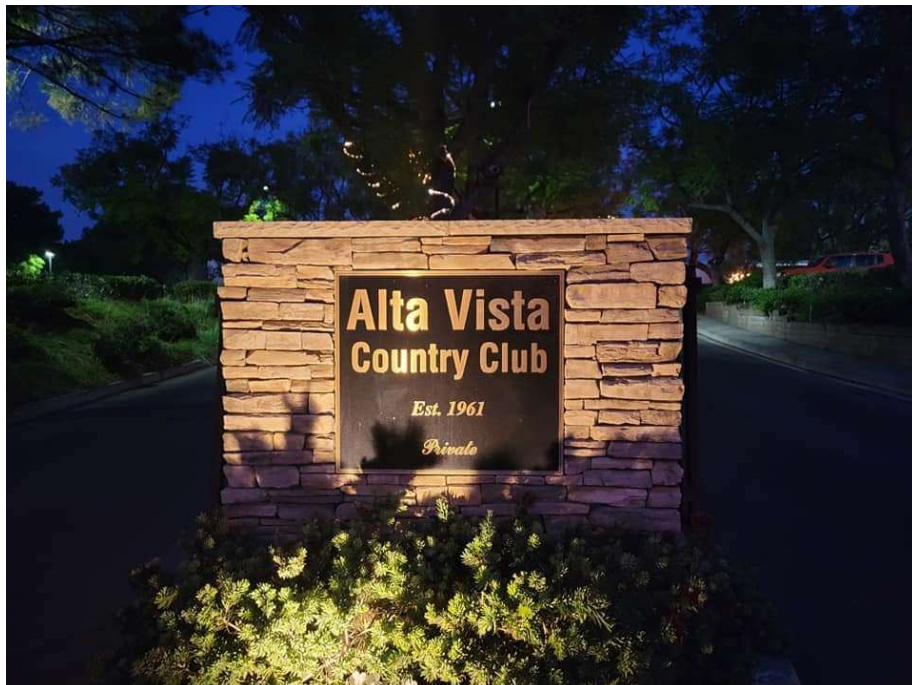
Blueberries can be substituted for the cranberries. Nuts can also be added.

OC VETTES CLUB APPAREL

OCV clothing and hats can be ordered from Land's End. To start, view products online at: https://business.landsend.com/store/oc_vettes/. Decide on the merchandise you want to purchase. The official OCV color is royal blue, and the typical club shirt is a button front polo shirt. As you place your order, you will be able to add the club logo to your purchase. Select the logo color that works best with your shirt. If you need assistance in ordering just call 1-800- 587-1541 between Monday and Friday from 7AM to 7 PM CT. Their friendly staff is waiting to help you with your order.

OC VETTES CHRISTMAS PARTY Sunday, December 3

Ray and Ellie Cranston put on another fabulous Christmas party at the Alta Vista Country Club. Dinner, dancing, frivolity and camaraderie! The Placentia Fire Department sent representatives to add our toy donations to Santa's Toys for Tots bag. Santa made a personal appearance and greeted all the ladies with candy canes. There was a surprise visit from Brian and Margaret Hoen who drove all the way from Utah just to attend our Christmas party! A fun time was had by all.





What a handsome group! We clean up well.

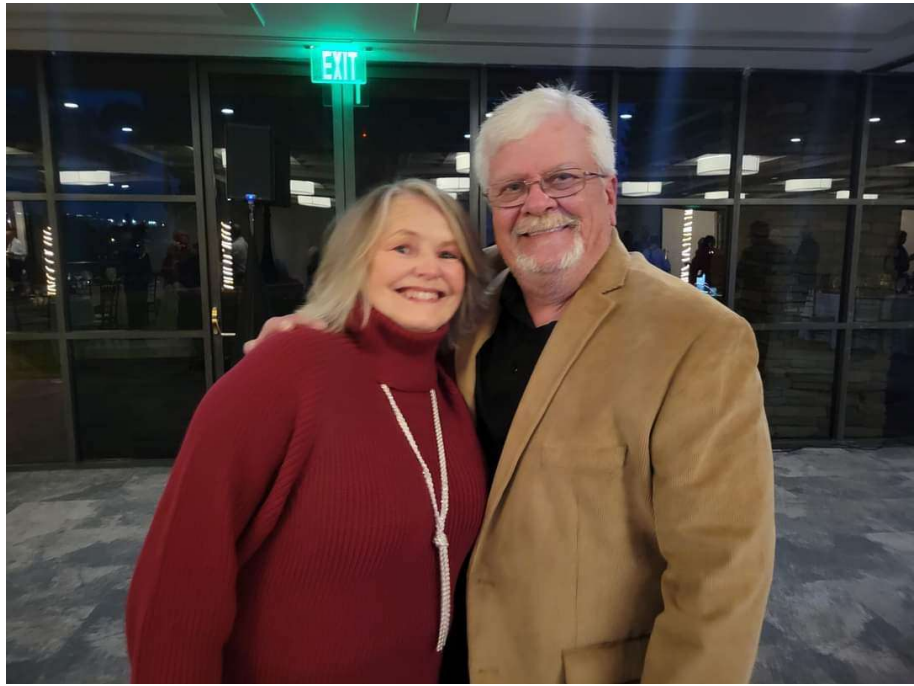


Lots of toys, raffle prizes and ornaments to exchange!



Placentia Fire picking up Toys for Tots

















RED TRIANGLE SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Below is a letter that I received from the Red Triangle Society:

To: Newsletter Editor OC Vettes
From: Board of Directors, Red Triangle Society
Subject: Red Triangle Society
Date: October 30, 2023

This letter is to inform you who and what the Red Triangle Society is. Our Society is a secret organization in the Automotive Club world that was formed many years ago to recognize and honor car folks who have had an on- the-road failure or problem. Sometimes we honor the folks who go out of their way to help those who are in trouble. We have no required membership dues; we feel you have already paid them by being in trouble on the road.

We do not publish our address or email. We are not on Facebook or Twitter, there is no published list of members. Our Ambassadors and Representatives are known only to the Board of Directors. Our representatives are carefully selected and we contact them, they do not contact us. If a member of your club comes to our attention and they meet our rigid requirements, we will send a notification to our Representative or Ambassador letting them know they need to do a presentation to your club member.

We are contacting you now because a few of your members have been inducted into our little society as Triangle recipients or Ambassadors. Currently your Representative is Bernard J. DeMarkey.

Below is a letter that Bernie received from the Red Triangle Society acknowledging their latest award recipient:

To: Bernie DeMarkey
From: Board of Directors, Red Triangle Society
Subject: Jerry Wheeler, aka "The Wheel Man"
Date: December 11, 2023

It is the order of the Red Triangle Society, on this day December 11, 2023 that Jerry Wheeler is to be inducted into the Red Triangle Society. Today's inductee is due to action of a jealous non-Corvette owner who raced through the intersection of Brea Boulevard and Bastanchury Road against the light, aimed like a heat seeking missile toward Jerry's stunning C7, Z06 Corvette slamming into it with staggering force. We have been told it

most likely will be totaled. Luckily NO ONE!! was hurt. The other driver tried to blame the accident on Jerry because his Corvette was so shiny it blinded her so she could not see the traffic light (We know Mr. Wheeler's Corvette is always spotless and shiny, but that is no excuse).

The Society hopes this will not put a damper on Mr. Wheeler's joy jilled Christmas spirit during this season. The Red Triangle Society would like to remind Jerry that Santa is checking his list to see who is naughty or nice!!! And maybe, just maybe, there is a C8 on the sleigh with Jerry's name on it!!

Jerry, we the Red Triangle Society, are honored to receive you and Jane into our Society with full rights and privileges. We hope that you will display this Triangle proudly and never have to use it.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Jerry has been presented with his Induction Letter, and his formal induction will be held at the next club meeting on January 2.)



Annual Las Vegas/Route 66 Fun Run Trip
SAVE THE DATES!
May 1-5, 2024

This annual club trip will be here before you know it. Planning is underway.

More than 800 vehicles carrying thousands of friends will be joining the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona for a weekend of fun and adventure. Historic Route 66 Fun Run participants from across the globe will meet in Seligman, AZ to travel a 140-mile stretch of Route 66 with events planned in communities along the way. The procession will conclude at the finish line in Topock/Golden Shores. Signup sheets will be available at the General meetings of November 7, December 5, January 2, and February 6.

Reminder: You must register your car for the Fun Run. See the registration form in this newsletter. Make sure your form is marked for Kingman pickup of your registration packet.

All monies and reservations to be collected and confirmed by our General meeting of March 5, 2024.

Tentative Itinerary:

Wednesday, May 1

Drive to Las Vegas, lunch at Big B's BBQ in Henderson, attend the Vegas show "Soul of Motown" at the Westgate Hotel and Casino followed by dinner at Benihana Restaurant in the Westgate.

Thursday, May 2

Free day to visit and relax in Vegas.

Friday, May 3

Travel to Boulder City, NV for lunch at the Boulder Dam Restaurant followed by the drive to Kingman, AZ. Pick up Fun Run registration packets at the Kingman Powerhouse Museum. Staying at Best Western Wayfarers Inn in Kingman. Happy hour in hotel lobby followed by dinner at La Catrina Mexican Restaurant.

Saturday, May 4

Drive to Seligman, AZ for the start of the Fun Run – 146 miles back to Kingman visiting sites along the way. Dinner at Cracker Barrel followed by dessert back at the hotel lobby.

Sunday, May 5

Cinco de Mayo sees us visiting Oatman Ghost Town and then off to the finish line.

This event is limited to 40 participants so sign up early. Let us know if you have any questions regarding the trip.

Hosted by Ron and Michael Molendyk

CORVETTE TECH TIPS **Submitted by Richard Sheff**

Greetings, OC Vettes!



Making your Corvette your own is what "Tech Tips" is all about. These helpful upgrades will appear every month in the club's newsletter, the "**Orange Pit**." If you have a comment, let me know. I have thick skin and promise not to take your comments personally or sue. As a reminder, I have no financial interest in any of the companies or products recommended. I've installed every product reviewed in my Vettes and am pleased to include them here for your consideration.

The "Tips" being debuted this month focus on safety and aesthetics. Safety is always a priority. So, let's begin there.

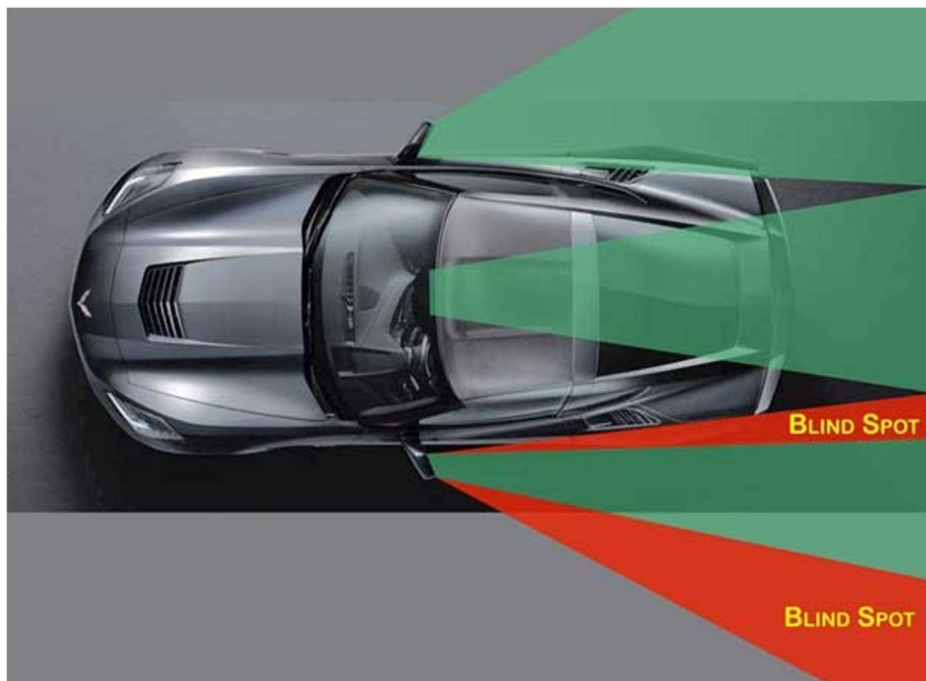
Visibility in your C 7 and C 8 is not great. The car is low to the ground, the A and B pillars obstruct the driver's view, and the back window on the C 8 is just too damn small to see anything in the rear view mirror without camera assist.

If you want to make your ride safer and mitigate the problem, help is available. Read on.

For those rocking a C 7, I recommend the Panoramic Door Mirrors sold by Sandyeggo Designs. These amazing little glass overlays attach on top of the OEM mirrors and fix (dramatically improve) the rear view visibility issue. They are inexpensive, easy to apply, look absolutely OEM and, best of all, they work really well. Hands down, this was the best mod I made to my C 7 Stingray.

Got a C 8? The Panoramic Door Mirrors work the same. There is one caveat you should be aware of. While the mirrors work beautifully, you will lose your door mirror warning lights during the day. At night, the warning lights are strong enough to penetrate the mirror's silver coating and will (again) be visible. I weighed the pros and cons and chose to install them on my C 8. Verdict... I have no regrets and I don't miss having my daytime warning lights.

Fair Warning. Be careful when doing your installation. The adhesive used is unforgiving. Once the mirrors are installed, there's no going back.



For more information about this product, go here:

<https://www.sandyeggo.com>

Moving on to aesthetics, this next mod makes me smile every time I enter my machine. You're, no doubt, wondering — what could possibly have that kind of effect on me. It's my C 8 door sill plates. A picture's said to be worth a thousand words; here's an image that should make every C 8 owner drool. These AMT Custom Design overlays are absolutely beautiful, ridiculously easy to install, available in every Corvette color, fit perfectly and, while not cheap (\$249), worth every penny paid. My Vette is black with a red interior... these look stunning.



That's a wrap. Live the dream. Make America's sports car your own. Enhance its appearance and performance. It's fun, inexpensive and the changes introduced should appeal to just about everyone.

Look for more helpful Corvette "Tips" in next month's issue of, "*The Orange Pit.*"

That's how we roll.

Happy holidays & safe travels, everyone.

SWAP AND SELL

This is a new section to our newsletter. This is to be an informative and helpful section that is not limited to your Corvette. If you have Corvette parts to sell or seeking parts, this is your place. If you have a car to sell or looking for a car, this is your place. If you have a refrigerator, sofa or other household item to sell or looking for, this is your place. If you have a service to offer or can recommend someone or a business for a service, this is your place. Contact Conda if you would like something to be included in this section.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	CLUB MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY	Years
DEC		DEC			
6	Barbara Pavek	17	Ron & Barbara Pavek	Ron & Barbara Pavek	11
11	John Patun	18	Michael & Michelle Molendyk		
15	Brian Hoiem	27	Bill & Teri Kupper		
15	Jerry Wheeler	28	Ferris & Ruth Warden		
17	Sarah McDaniel	31	Bob & Masako Burggraf		
21	Sue Lookman				
22	Angelic Hines				
26	Mickey Lookman				
JAN		JAN			
2	Conda Takanabe	3	Larry and Nancy Ward	Bernie & Stephanie DeMarkey	25
4	Jane Wheeler			Barbara Hall	18
12	Ron Molendyk			Bob and Deb Van Der Upwich	12
15	Ruth Nichols			Art Rosen	7
20	Bill Kupper			Dave & Lisa Tally	1
23	Michael Molendyk				
24	Henry Walker				

27	Mark Shearer				
31	Masako Burggraf				

NEWS YOU CAN USE
Submitted by Nancy Ward

Many people don't like taking tests, especially the DMV test to renew your driver's license. We've all heard the horror stories of perfectly capable drivers who can't pass the test. If you know someone in that category, may we suggest checking out the DMV eLearning alternative test done at home instead of going to the DMV. You need to have a DMV account, but that's easy to set up. Then go to their website, click on the eLearning segment, register, pay the fee and get to work. Designed for folks who have trouble with tests or just want to try something else, it should take about 45 minutes to finish on your home computer. There are seven sections and a brief multiple-choice quiz at the end of each section. If you get an answer wrong, just review the information, and try again. Once you finish, you will receive an email verifying you completed the course. Wait at least 24 hours for your fee to process, then head to whatever DMV location you prefer to get your new photo, fingerprint and your temporary license. Note: this is NOT the knowledge test. The eLearning course is easier. Happy trails!

OC VETTES
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
December 5, 2023
Santa Ana Elks Lodge

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:31 by President Leo Mann. Vice President Ron Molendyk, Secretary Carol Thompson, Treasurer Ray Cranston, and Director Steve Bronston were also present. There were 36 members in attendance. There was one visitor: Richard Cummings.
- II. Flag Salute: President

III. General Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2023, moved for approval by Bernie DeMarkey and seconded by Ray Cranston. Minutes approved.

IV. Reports -

A. Board of Directors

- i. President: Leo Mann
- ii. Vice President: Ron Molendyk
- iii. Secretary: Carol Thompson
- iv. Treasurer: Ray Cranston – Ray passed out the Treasurer’s statement
- v. Director: Steve Bronston – Steve brought labels for the back of our business cards for the members who had requested them.

B. Appointed Positions

- i. Membership: Donna Mann. Our guest is Richard Cummings. He drives a 2008 yellow C6.
- ii. NCCC Governor: Mickey Lookman. The NCCC mailed out temporary paper membership cards. Plastic cards will be coming out shortly.
- iii. Corvette Museum Ambassador: Jerry Wheeler. No report.
- iv. Member News: Jane Wheeler. Val Molendyk is still recovering from her broken arm and now she has been diagnosed with a blood clot in her leg. Recovery is going slowly. Barb Hall is staying with her son right now because her daughter-in-law is treating tumors that were found.
- v. Apparel Coordinator: Gary Oedeker. No report.
- vi. Website: Steve Bronston. Some changes have been requested to the website, but they have not been completed yet. Steve is working with our webmaster.
- vii. Newsletter: Conda Takanabe. Articles for the newsletter need to be sent to Conda by midweek next week.
- viii. 50/50 Coordinator: Masako Burggraf. No report.

V. Past Events

A. OC Vettes Christmas Party

- i. It was a great party and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Santa came to visit.
- ii. The Cranstons thanked everyone who donated raffle prizes, and Conda for giving gifts for the event. They thanked Teri Kupper for making Christmas bracelets for all the ladies. Also, thanks go to the set-up crew.

- iii. It was nice to see some members who we don't get to see often such as Brian and Margaret Hoiem.
 - iv. Toys were collected and local firefighters came to get them for their Spark of Love campaign.
- VI. Future Events
- A. December 12 Bunco is hosted by Sue Walker. Poker is at Bob Burggraaf's Mancave.
 - B. No December Social due to Christmas.
 - C. Route 66 Fun Run 2024, May 1-5.
 - i. Limited to 40 attendees. Sign-up sheet available at tonight's Dec General Meeting, Sign-ups will continue until February 2024.
 - ii. Please sign up if you are planning to attend. Ron needs an idea of how many will attend so he can plan restaurant reservations, show tickets and transportation.
 - D. Bernie and Stephanie DeMarkey are planning a trip to Jet Propulsion Laboratory to be held in February or March next year. They need a count of interested members so they know how big of a group to plan for. ID will be required prior to the event for security clearance. Please contact Bernie if you are interested in attending. The tour will last about 2 hours.
- VII. Member Forum – Bob Burggraf just got a new Z06. His 2023 C8 convertible Z51 is for sale. It is fully loaded.
- VIII. Next General Meeting is Tuesday January 2 at 6:30 at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge. There is no Board meeting in December. Next Board Meeting is January 23 at 6:30 PM at Keno's in Anaheim Hills. Agenda items for the next meeting are due to Leo Mann by December 30.
- IX. Badge Fines \$1.00 were paid to Ray Cranston.
- X. Opportunity Drawing by Masako Burggraf. 50/50 drawing of \$63 was won by Nancy Ward. Doris Dix, Sarah McDaniel, Dave Hamel, Ron Molendyk, Ellie Cranston, and Sue Walker also won a prize. Ron Molendyk was the proud recipient of the chicken plate.
- XI. Motion to Adjourn at 6:57 by Jerry Wheeler, seconded by Vicky Siragusa. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Thompson, Secretary



The Orange Pits is the monthly Newsletter for the OC Vettes Club of Orange County, CA. This newsletter is intended to inform our membership about club news and events. Articles to be submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the night of the monthly General Business Meeting or sent via email to Newsletter Editor CondaTakanabe at: btakanabe@msn.com. All written correspondence to the club should be mailed to:

OC Vettes
P.O. Box 27183
Anaheim, CA 92809

O C Vettes (OCV) is a Corvette club based in Orange County, California. OCV is a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Council of Corvette Clubs (NCCC). OCV is an active supporter of Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC).

O C Vettes is a club of individuals who appreciate driving Chevrolet Corvettes and enjoy socializing with fellow Corvette owners. Currently, OCV has over 100 members who enjoy a varied calendar of events. Car shows, day trips, overnight trips, extended trips or other events are usually scheduled each month.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Corvettes. More information is available on our Web site at www.ocvettes.com.

O C Vettes 2023 - 2024 Club Officers

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Leo Mann	(714) 323-3599
Vice President	Ron Molendyk	(714) 343-8688
Secretary	Carol Thompson	(714-749-1486
Treasurer	Ray Cranston	(562) 665-1709
Director	Steve Bronston	(714) 458-1675

VOLUNTEER OFFICES

NCCC Governor	Mickey Lookman	(714) 767-1053
Membership Chair	Donna Mann	(714) 323-3555
National Corvette Museum Ambassador	Jerry Wheeler	(714) 471-0658
Apparel Coordinator	Gary Oedekerk	(949) 733-1047
Website Liaison	Steve Bronston	(714) 458-1675
Newsletter/Historian	Conda Takanabe	(714) 595-1070
Member News	Jane Wheeler	(714) 801-0678
50-50 Coordinator	Masako Burggraf	(714) 936-8528
Homecoming Chair	Conda Takanabe	(714) 595-1070