

APRIL 2024



The Orange Pits

OC VETTES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone!

April is here and finally bring warmer days. Our local canyons and hills are starting to bloom after all the rain. We need to take our cars out and enjoy the sunny days! Check the Club Calendar. We have several exciting events coming up, including a trip to a lavender farm!

RTE 66 Fun Run is the Club's first multi-day trip this year. Twenty-five people are signed up for this event. Weather conditions on this trip can be cool, hot, windy, or rainy. We need to make sure our cars are ready so be prepared. (My wife keeps reminding me that Corvettes don't melt in the rain!)

I'm looking forward to being able to get out and drive my Corvette!

Leo Mann
President, OC Vettes

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCV Events in Blue and Italic.

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

DATE	EVENT	HOST
<i>April 2</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$24 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>April 9</i>	<i>Ladies Bunco at Masako Burggraf's/Poker at Bob Burggraf's</i>	
April 14	OCMAFC 61 st Annual Pancake Breakfast @ Hart Park	
<i>April 16</i>	<i>OCV March Social at Zubie's Dry Dock</i>	<i>Tony and Vicky Siragusa</i>
April 18-20	Gambler's Classic in Laughlin (SOLD OUT)	
<i>April 20</i>	<i>Warner Bros. Studio Tour</i>	<i>Tony Siragusa</i>
April 22	Passover	
<i>April 23</i>	<i>OCV Board Meeting @ Keno's Anaheim Hills</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
April 27	Women's Motor Fest at the Marconi	
<i>May 1-5</i>	<i>Route 66 Fun Run</i>	<i>Ron and Michael Molendyk</i>
<i>May 7</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$24 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>Ladies Bunco AND Poker at Bob Burggraf's Man Cave</i>	
<i>May 21</i>	<i>OCV March Social at Rose Canyon Cantina</i>	<i>Henry and Sue Walker</i>
May 25	The Zimmerman Corvette Car Show & Chili Cookoff https://automobiledrivingmuseum.org/event/corvette2024/	
<i>May 28</i>	<i>OCV Board Meeting @ Keno's Anaheim Hills</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
June 2	Steve McQueen Car and Motorcycle Show	
June 2	Huntington Beach Concourse d'Elegance	
<i>June 4</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$24 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>June 22</i>	<i>OCV trip to the Lavendar Fields in Beaumont</i>	<i>Leo and Donna Mann</i>
June 30	National Corvette Day at the Marconi	
July 17-20	Black Hills Corvette Classic	
<i>Aug 24-25</i>	<i>OCV Overnight trip to Buck Owens' Crystal Palace, Bakersfield</i>	<i>Ron & Val Molendyk & Bety Slauson</i>
<i>Aug 29-31</i>	<i>Corvette Caravan to Bowling Green</i>	<i>Janet Cherry</i>
October 21	Heels & Wheels at the Marconi	



APRIL SOCIAL at ZUBIE'S DRY DOCK



Captain John Zubieta known as "Zubie" established his first ZUBIES back in the '60's. Zubies is renowned for its legendary tradition of over 40 years and has become a household name in all of Orange County. Simple family meals turn into feasts of generous proportions, and everywhere conversation turns to good food, family, and friends, which conjure up simpler times, and the pursuit of it. The joy of eating in an unrushed, happy atmosphere is central to Zubies culture.

The OCV April Social will be hosted by Tony and Vicky Siragusa at 6:00 p.m. at Zubie's Dry Dock, 9059 Adams Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA.



MARCH SOCIAL at MR. D'S DINER

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I accidentally deleted the photos from my phone that I took at the social. Thanks to Jerry Wheeler for sharing his photos with me to include in the newsletter!)











INTERESTING TRIVIA

A one-way trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway involves crossing 3,901 bridges

Not only is the Trans-Siberian Railway the [longest railroad](#) in Russia, but it's also the longest one in the world. The journey takes seven days, during which time passengers pass through eight different time zones and cross 3,901 bridges.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	CLUB MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY	Years
APR		APR			
3	Doris Dix			Conda Takanabe	22
4	Debb Van der Upwich			Larry & Nancy Ward	22
7	Pat Beucler			Bob & Masako Burggraf	8
16	Sue Fossek				
17	Terry Kupper				
21	Janet Cherry				
23	Chris Hamel				
27	Leo Mann				
MAY		MAY			
23	Karen Goettsch	3	Tony & Vicky Siragusa	Frank Reese & Carole Howard	18
		17	George & Sarah McDonald	Tronya Nelson	5
		25	Mark & Rosemary Shearer		

JOKE(S) OF THE MONTH



RECIPE(S) OF THE MONTH

M&M CASSEROLE



NONNIE'S SPAGHINI STICK-TO-YOUR RIBS SOUP
(13 Servings)
(Courtesy of Nancy Ward)

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound ground round, ground turkey, or Italian sausage
5 cups water
4 cups chopped green cabbage (about 1 pound)
3 1/2 cups tomato juice or V8 juice *
1 Tablespoon dried oregano
1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
1 tsp salt or a no salt substitute
1 1/2 tsp pepper
1/4 tsp dried thyme
3 (15-ounce) cans kidney beans *
3 (14 1/4 ounce) cans diced tomatoes *
2 (14 1/4 ounce) cans no salt added beef broth
8 ounces uncooked angel hair pasta (or whatever pasta you like)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cook the meat in a large Dutch oven or stockpot over medium heat until browned, stirring to crumble. Drain the meat in a colander and wipe the drippings from the pan with a paper towel.
2. Return meat to pot. Add water and the next ten ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 2 hours, stirring occasionally.
3. Break pasta in half, stir into soup, and cook an additional 5 minutes or until the pasta is done. Or cook the pasta separately, drain, and add the amount you want in individual soup bowls. This gives you more broth. *I use no salt cans. This recipe lends itself to adding extra spices or anything you have leftover in your fridge that sounds good to you. Freezes well for more meals.

MEXICAN CASSEROLE
(Courtesy of Jane Wheeler)

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound lean ground beef (I use turkey)
2 cups salsa
1 16 oz can chili beans, drained
3 cups tortilla chips, crushed
2 cups sour cream
1 2-ounce can sliced black olives, drained
1/2 cup chopped green onion
1/2 cup chopped fresh tomato
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (I used the Mexican four blend cheese)

Fry up the beef until browned and crumbly. Stir in the salsa, then stir in the beans after the liquid is absorbed. Spread crushed tortilla chips over the bottom of the baking dish. Spoon beef mixture on top. Spread sour cream over the beef, then sprinkle olives, green onion and tomatoes on top. Cover with cheese. Bake in the preheated oven until hot and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

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.



Annual Las Vegas/Route 66 Fun Run Trip

May 1-5, 2024

Hosted by Ron and Michael Molendyk

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.

CORVETTE TECH TIPS

No. 7

Submitted by Richard Sheff

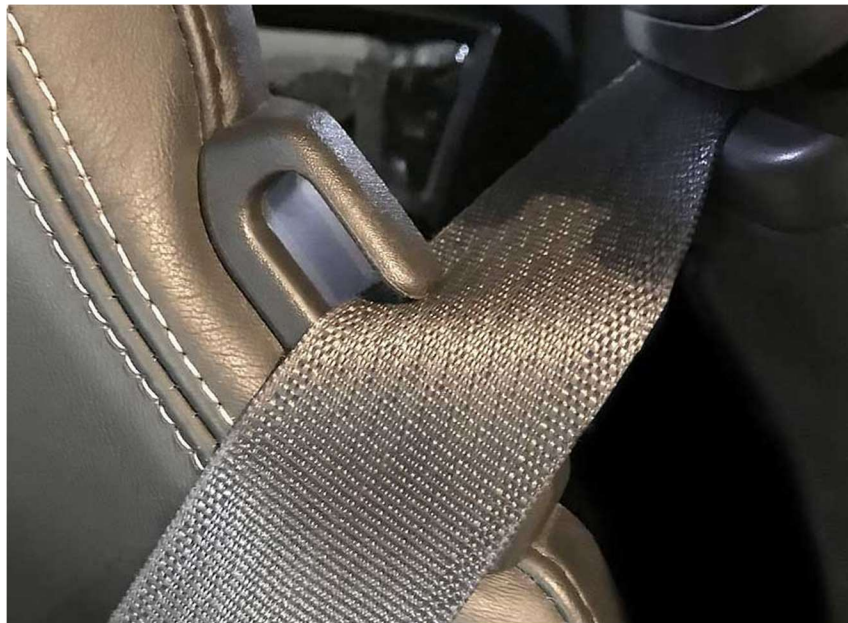


Welcome back!

It's been a month since our last communication. If you need assistance making your street legal supercar a little more special, you're in the right place so, read on.

Corvette: "America's Sports Car." Where beauty, performance and function come together to rule the road. Even this, "king of car's" or "garage queen" is not without fault. Every Corvette, regardless of generation, has its flaws. Some of these imperfections, and ways you can correct them, will be addressed in the following paragraphs. This month's focus, 3 appearance mods and an annoying C 7 design oversight you'll want to correct immediately.

Let's start with the small, but annoying C 7 design flaw. You get in your Vette and you buckle-up. All goes well until your seatbelt slips out of its seat mounted guide. You put it back – but the seat belt slips out again. It just won't stay put. The seatbelt seems to have a mind of its own. That's my definition of annoying.



Bad design

To fix the problem, go here <https://www.sandyeggodesigns.com/> and order a pair. That is, a pair of Sandyeggo Design's seat belt stays. No tools required. Just snap the stays in place. Problem solved. Genius. Thank you Sandyeggo Design. Their sale price, a wallet friendly, \$14.99 USD.

The Fix



Moving on. Here's 3 more mods to seriously consider:

1. **Floor mats.** The GM mats that come with your car are a horror. Don't walk. Run and replace them with mats that are worthy of a luxury supercar – Lloyd Mats. Lloyd has sizes to fit every generation, they come in dozens of designs and in all the popular colors. Made in America quality. Beautifully executed, available everywhere. Priced from \$150 USD.



2. **Tire valve caps.** This small improvement makes a big difference in your wheel's appearance. My 1955 Schwinn Black Phantom knee action bicycle came with nicer valve caps than the OEM's supplied by GM for my C 8. The Schwinn's were chrome and made me proud of my valve caps. Not so with GM's answer to keeping my tire's air-valve cores clean. I replaced the OEM nasties with some "plain ole" chrome ones. They're perfect. Cost, \$4 for 8. You can spend more. Let your fingers do the searching. You'll find dozens of designs, on line, to choose from.



3. **Tail light vinyl overlays.** These vinyl overlays add a sinister and upscale look to the lighting on the back of your ride. Installation is ridiculously easy. Clean; then spray the area being worked on with H₂O and attach the overlays on the tail lights being covered. Pictured are the dark version. My preference was smoke. Easy to buy, available from Paragon Performance, at only \$14.95 USD.



That's a wrap.

Live the dream. Whether road warrior or garage queen, make America's sports car your personal masterpiece of design. Enhance its appearance and performance. It's fun, can be inexpensive, the mods are usually easy to install and the products featured are generally available everywhere. Look for more helpful Corvette "Tips" in next month's issue of *The Orange Pits*.

Safe travels, everyone.

That's how we roll.

SWAP AND SELL

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nothing submitted for this month's newsletter.

OC VETTES MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING April 2, 2024 Santa Ana Elks Lodge

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President, Leo Mann. Vice President Ron Molendyk and Treasurer Ray Cranston were also present. Secretary Carol Thompson and Director Steve Bronston were absent. There were 44 members and 4 guests in attendance.
- II. Flag Salute: President
- III. General Meeting minutes for March 5, 2024. It was noted that the minutes needed to be amended. Ray Cranston moved for approval after amendment and Jerry Wheeler seconded.
- IV. Reports –
 - A. Board of Directors
 - i. President: Leo Mann - No Report
 - ii. Vice President: Ron Molendyk - No Report
 - iii. Secretary: Carol Thompson – absent
 - iv. Treasurer: Ray Cranston distributed Treasurer's statement. He also stated that \$125 was donated to CHOC in memory of John Treece and a \$500 donation to CHOC was made from OC Vettes.

- v. Director: Steve Bronston – absent
- B. Appointed Positions
 - i. NCCC Governor: Micky Lookman - No Report
 - ii. Corvette Museum Ambassador: Jerry Wheeler - There's a problem with some new C8s transmission when in park. Chevrolet will take care of the problem.
 - iii. Membership: Donna Mann - There were four guests, Frank Vlchek and Judy Quick own a 1960 C1 convertible, sateen silver and black, (just purchased from Mecum). They also own a 2019 C7 coupe, Watkin Glen Gray. Mike and Ofelia own a 2023 Accelerated yellow metallic C8 convertible.
 - iv. Member News: Jane Wheeler announced that member, Marion Bronston passed away and long time member, Barbara Pavcek passed away.
 - v. Website: Steve Bronston – absent
 - vi. Newsletter: Conda Takanabe would like articles in by Monday, April 8th.
 - vii. Apparel Coordinator: Gary Oedekerker reported that after further investigation into the Lands End coffee mugs, the cost of a 4 color print was too expensive. He will explore another manufacturer.
 - viii. 50/50 Coordinator: Masako Burggraf - no report

V. Past Events

- A. March Social was hosted by Ray and Ellie Cranston at Mr. D's in Placentia. Ray reported that 34 members attended. Service was very good. Everyone had a good time.

VI. Upcoming Events

- A. April 9th - Bunco at Masako's,, Poker at Bob's Mancave
- B. April 14 - Model A Club Pancake Breakfast at Hart Park, 701 S. Glassel St. in Orange. Up to 300 Model A's on display. Breakfast is \$10.
- C. April 16th, 5:30 PM - Club Social at Zubies Dry Dock hosted by Tony and Vicky Siragusa. 9059 Adams Ave. Huntington Beach.
- D. April 20th - Warner Bros. Studio Tour hosted by Tony and Vicky. Tony asked that you pay at the meeting tonight, \$58/per person. Parking will be on the top level of the parking structure. The guided tram tour starts at 11:30AM and lasts an hour. There is a deli/cafe for those members who want to have lunch after the tour. Members can take a self guided tour after lunch. Tony will send out Caravan info before tour.
- E. May 1st - May 5th RTE 66 Fun Run hosted by Ron and Mike Molendyk Depart from Denny's in Fullerton, off the 57 Freeway. Those traveling with the group should meet at Denny's by 7:00AM. If you plan to eat breakfast please be there earlier. Departure time will be 7:15AM sharp. Heading to Las Vegas, the group will make a comfort stop at McDonalds at the Cajon Summit, (Wagon Train Road). Another comfort stop will be at Eddie's World. The reserved show is Wednesday night, 5:30PM at the Westgate. Dinner at Benihanas to follow. Ron was also

- able to secure dinner reservations Saturday night at the Jurupa Indian Resort in Kingman, AZ.
- F. May 21st Club social at Rose Canyon Cantina hosted by Henry and Sue Walker
 - G. June 22nd - ABC Farms Lavender Fields hosted by Leo and Donna Mann. Tours given 5:00PM to 10:00PM. (No daytime tours offered). Tractor/trailer tour available. Must have 25 attendees or more to qualify for a group rate. More details to follow.
 - H. August 21, 2024 Corvette Caravan to Bowling Green Kentucky. See Janet Cherry for information.
 - I. August 24 - 25 Buck Owens Crystal Palace, Bakersfield, hosted by Ron and Val Molendyk.
 - J. December 7th, 2024 Christmas Party to be at Orange County Mining Co. in Orange. Saturday Brunch from 11:00AM to 3:00 PM. Brunch Buffet with orange juice and champagne. Music by Dave Hamel, Visit from Santa, members bring Toys for Tots. Members will pay \$60 per person. OC Vettes will pay other costs.
 - K. Proposed upcoming outings
 - i. Return trip to Lions Museum in Long Beach
 - ii. 5 day trip to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, 2025
 - iii. 5 day trip to Page, AZ to tour the Slot Canyons, etc., May, 2025.
 - VII. Member Forum
 - VIII. 50/50 Opportunity Drawing by Masako Burggraf. 50/50 drawing of \$80 won by Conda Takanabe, Frank Reese and Tronya Nelson also won prizes.
 - IX. Badge fines were paid to Treasurer, Ray Cranston
 - X. Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Blattenberg and seconded by Micky Lookman.
 - XI. Next Board Meeting April 23rd, Kenos, Anaheim Hills
 - XII. Next General Meeting, May 7th, Santa Ana Elks Lodge

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Mann, Secretary Pro Tempore

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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



eNews

Official Publication of the Southwest Section
National Corvette Caravan Presented by
Zip Products / Ghost Shield Film

Top Stories

Red Line Oil Sponsorship

The [Red Line Synthetic Oil Corporation](#) has joined the Southwest Section's list of sponsors. "I've had a 30-year relationship with Red Line through my work in automotive media," Section XO Hib Halverson told the eNews last week. "Red Line's ester-based lubricants, ATFs, power steering fluid, and its coolant additive are the best choice if you want the ultimate performance and durability from your Corvette. I use them in all of our vehicles, not just the Vettes.

Red Line's famed "Water Wetter" coolant additive is a must for the cooling systems on the Caravan because we spend three days driving through the deserts of southeastern California, southern Nevada, and southern Utah. WaterWetter can reduce peak coolant temperatures by 5-10°F. On days when the ambient temperature might be 110° and the temperature just above the road, where your engine gets cooling air, might be 120°F your Corvette will love you more after you add WaterWetter to your radiator.

"Back when I was the Section Captain for the '09 Caravan," the XO continued, "Red Line sponsored a t-shirt that had the Caravan logo on the front and Red Line graphics on the back. Working with Red Line, I arranged to have a 2024 Southwest Section T-shirt similar to what we did 13 years ago. It will be supplied free of charge to all registered Southwest Caravaners on the night before we leave Pasadena."

The Southwest Organizing Team would like to thank Mark Beatty, Red Line Director of Marketing, and Roy Howell, Red Line Chief Chemist, for their support of the Southwest Section of the National Corvette Caravan



Corvette Plant Tours

The other big story in this issue of eNews is that the National Corvette Museum announced last week that guided tours of the GM Bowling Green Assembly plant, where Corvettes are manufactured, will take place during the three-day, Labor Day event.

Automotive assembly plants are fascinating showcases of American manufacturing. To see thousands of individual parts come in one end of the plant and a finished vehicle go out the other is an amazing experience. Even better is watching a Corvette get built.

On May 15, 2024, the National Corvette Museum will begin accepting reservations, so if you want a tour of BGA, mark your calendars then, on 15 May, head on over to the [National Caravan site](#).



The Anniversary Celebration just got
EVEN BETTER

BREAKING
NEWS



BOWLING GREEN ASSEMBLY
PLANT TOURS

Returning for the week of
the Anniversary Celebration

Reservations are **Limited** | Available for purchase May 15, 2024

Other News

Southwest Caravan Partner

On Day Two of the Caravan, we'll stage for departure in the M Resort Spa Casino's huge Overflow Parking Lot on the east side of the property. The Southwest Organizing Team was able to get use of that lot at no charge when we paired up with Royal Festivals which puts on the Annual Las Vegas San Gennaro Feast in the M's Overflow area.

The Gennaro Feast is a traditional Italian festival dedicated to Saint Gennaro, patron saint of Naples, Italy and New York City's Little Italy. The feast is celebrated on 19 September according to the calendar of the Catholic Church.



In Naples, Italy this annual celebration and feast of faith is held over three days, commemorating Saint Gennaro. Italian-Americans celebrate with St. Gennaro festivals all over the country

The San Gennaro Feast of Las Vegas takes place twice a year. In 2024 it is May 8-12 and September 18-22. There is live entertainment from Elvis and Michael Jackson tribute bands to traditional Italian musicians and even a DJ spinning dance, house, and hip hop. There is booth after booth serving every Italian cuisine you can think of. Finally, there's more Italian merch than you can imagine. If you love Italian culture and food, you gotta go to the San Gennaro Feast in Las Vegas. Tix vary from \$7.50-\$15.00. They can be purchased on the [Las Vegas San Gannaro Feast website](#).

Caravan Merch

We have lots of goodies that registered Caravaners can buy. Show your support of the Southwest Carvan with our hats, flags, and two sizes of static cling stickers.



All are available from Section Captain Bill Herold. Contact Capt. Herold at the email address or phone number listed in the information section below.

Southwest Caravan Registration Information

In eNews7 we asked Southwest Corvette Caravaners to register early. So far, many Caravaners have done just that. Southwest Section CFO, Commander Paula Megowan, told the eNews that, as of today, 163 cars are registered for the Southwest Section of the National Caravan.

The Southwest Caravan costs \$100. Going to fee-based registration was a difficult decision for the Caravan Organizing Team because the previous SW Caravans did not charge a fee. Both the 2014 and 2019 Southwest Caravans lost money. Since the National Corvette Museum does not backstop any of a Caravan Section's finances, Captains take all the financial risk. The Section Captains for 2014 and 2019 both paid significant financial shortfalls after the two events concluded.

We're doing an "oldskool" registration. Southwest Caravaners will fill in a Registration Form and mail that and a check for \$100 to Paula Megowan,.

At the end of this issue of eNews is a fillable .pdf into which you can enter data using your computer, tablet, or smartphone. You will print the last page of this eNews then mail the finished form with your check to CFO Megowan who will email you back a confirmation.

Be a Caravan Patron

The National Corvette Museum does not fund Caravan Sections. Each organizing team raises the money necessary to pay expenses, purchase equipment, and put on events. The Southwest Section relies on sponsorship, Route Book advertising, and registration fees to fund some of its activities. Also, generous Caravaners have a tradition of chipping in.

Show your support for the Southwest Section of the Caravan by becoming a "Caravan Patron". Everyone donating \$100 or more to the Organizing Team becomes a "Patron" and will be listed on a page in the front of the Southwest Caravan [Route Book](#). At this point obtaining major sponsorships and selling Route Book advertising has yet to ramp up and the Organizing Team is still relying on money lent to it by its members, so we need all the help we can get.

Those interested in the Patron Program should contact Section XO Hib Halverson at the email address or phone number listed in the "Information" section below. The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team thanks our Patrons:

Janet Cherry
Doug and Loretta Campbell
Harvey and Jane Price
Matt and Lark Stevens
Mary Hall
Lawrence and Rosemary Pittman
Greg and Madonna Bowlay
Stephen and Maria Hudson
Jim and Kathy Carr
Joe and Julia Smith
Craig and Micky Gill
Mike and Joann Holpuch
Greg and Gisele Don
Rod Walker
Roy Howell

Roy and Carolyn Burgener
Craig and Laura Kerezman
Mark Vanderwyk/Justine Cleak
John and Gail Lercel
John and Susan Beard
Lynn Thompson
Roberta Degener
Mickey Lookman
Paul and Carol Hannah
Dennis Trammel
Larry and Pam Fortmuller
Lisa Klockenteger
Thomas Kelly and Marie Demarbiex
Larry and Janet King

Tony and Paula Megowan
Bill and Viola Herold
Hib and Sandy Halverson
Bruce and Gina Coleman
Joanne Mattingly
Peter and Melinda Walenceus
Dave and Dawn Gordon
Don and Jeanne Allen
John and Pam Waschbusch
Steve and Susan Royce
Susan and David Pratt
Cary and Ryan Rehm
Alexander and Gloria Best
David and Myrle Pentz

The Return of the Blankee Benefit

Starting with the 2014 Caravan, the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team has commissioned commemorative "stadium blankets" displaying the Southwest Corvette Caravan logo. Southwest Caravaners who became Patrons, also get this "Blankee Benefit".



This is the 2024 Caravan Stadium Blanket. Image: Cmdr. Tony Megowan

Our Stadium Blankets will be 50 by 60 inches. They are fur-lined with the logo and text applied by dye sublimation. They have no border with graphics and text being "full bleed".

The cozy fur-lined Southwest Caravan Blankee is perfect for Winter sports spectating, picnics, outdoor concerts, or just keeping warm on your lounge chair while watching a Sunday NASCAR race.

Two-Way Radios

by Section XO Hib Halverson

Southwest Caravaners have been asking about two-way radios for use while caravanning. They're

not a requirement, but most Caravaners have them. All radios used on the Caravan transmit and receive on frequencies shared by the Family RadioService (FRS) and the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). The 2024 Caravan will use the same frequency, 462.5750 Mhz. with no tone squelch or "privacy code," that it has used since 2003. it's FRS/GMRS simplex channel 16 which and is known to Carvaners as "CVAN1"



Kenwood NX 1800H 45-watt mobile transceiver

Most Caravanners use handi-talkies (HT) or "portables" all of which are battery-powered, transmit with either one half-, two- or five-watts, are equipped with short rubber antennas, and, transmitting from inside the car, have a range of up to three miles over flat ground. Some Caravaners will connect an outside antenna to an HT that's temporarily installed on the top or back of their cars. That can double the range. A few Caravanners, typically Caravan leadership, will use mobile radios that are about the size of the CBs from back in

the day. They are mounted on the dashboard or between the seats and have an outside antenna. They transmit with between 35- and 50-watts and have a range of up to 25 miles over flat ground.



BTECH "GMRS-V2"
Handi-Talkie

FRS and GMRS radios have a variety of price ranges. The least expensive are FRS handi-talkies. Often called "family radios" because they use family radio service channels or "bubble-pack" radios because vendors like Amazon or Walmart sell two of them in a plastic bubble pack for as little as 20 bucks. Most of them put out only half a watt. Outside the car over level ground, their range is up to a mile. From inside the car, maybe a few hundred yards. While a few Caravaners use the low-power FRS HTs, we don't recommend them because of limited range and average at best reliability.

Consumer-grade handi-talkies are a little more costly, but because they put out two watts if they are FRS or as much as five watts if they are GMRS, they have far better range. Consumer HT prices vary. The BTECH "GMRS-V2," made by the Chinese company Beofeng, has been popular with Corvette Clubs such as Ventura County and Redline. BTECHs were used by some on the '19 Caravan. They sell for about 75 bucks. Also available from the consumer GMRS market are 35-50-watt mobile radios. Commander Tony Megowan, one of the Organizing Team's experts on GMRS radio equipment, uses a BTECH HT and mobile. Megowan is the Team's go-to guy for programming BTECH equipment using the public domain, "Chirp" software. For more information on BTECH portables or mobiles, contact Tony at the email address in the Caravan Information Section below.

Professional grade GMRS HTs and Mobile transceivers are preferred by commercial users, serious outdoor enthusiasts, or anyone who desires rugged GMRS equipment built to MIL standards by brands such as Motorola, Kenwood, and iCom. High-end GMRS radio gear is more expensive. The Kenwood NX-1300DU, a MIL-STD GMRS handi-talkie that supports both analog and digital operation and has user-selectable power output of 1, 4, or 5 watts, can be had for \$382. The Kenwood NX-1800H is a MIL-STD GMRS mobile transceiver that's analog and digital capable and has user-selectable power outputs of 5, 25, and 45 watts along with a plethora of features typical of high-end mobile transceivers. It runs \$421. The best source for this high-end radio equipment is [JCS Wireless](#) in Cape Girardeau MO. It's owned by Reg Swan, a member of the Corvette Club of Southeastern Missouri and one of the key people behind the "Corvettes in Cape" event that takes place in Cape G. on the last night of the Caravan.

Because of my role in Caravan Leadership and that my Corvette sometimes ends up the Lead or Last Car, I have it equipped with a Kenwood mobile and a high-end Galaxy AB/SSB Citizen's Band radio—yep, over-the-road truckers still use them and those guys can be good sources of information. I also have a Wilson cellular amplifier in the car which has proven valuable in places where cell tower coverage is not so great. All of this has external antennas mounted on an "antenna bar" I put on the car for Caravan and other road trips when I need to be "radio-equipped."



Kenwood NX-1300DU
Handi-Talkie

Lastly, I have a new BTECH "GMRS-V1" portable for sale. It includes the handi-talkie, antenna, charger, AC adapter and owner manual. Price is \$40.00. Interested? email Section XO, Hib Halverson, at the address listed below in the Information section.

Additional questions on radios can be sent to either Tony Megowan or Hib Halverson.

Caravan Information

We have a [page on the National Caravan website](#). We, also, have this Southwest Caravan eNews, a tradition going back to 2003. If you don't have a subscription and want to start getting it, send an email to SWeNews@netmotive.net and simply type "subscribe" in the subject field, then type your name in the body of the email. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/919416625640194>. Finally, email or call any member of Caravan Leadership with questions.

Southwest Caravan Organizing Team Members

Section Captain Bill Herold: swcaravancaptain@gmail.com 805 402 7490
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Section Commander Paula Megowan, CFO: paula@cpamga.com 805 659 5056
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Section Commander Lawrence Pittman: pitmanlaw@aol.com

Feeder Caravan Local Leaders

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Section Lieutenant Alex Best, San Diego area los-snorenios@cox.net

Thanks for reading

Yeoman L. Sharke, Editor



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eNews

Official Publication of the Southwest Section
National Corvette Caravan Presented by
Zip Products / Ghost Shield Film

Top Stories

Hotel Reservations...Now is the Time!

The Southwest Section of the 2024 National Corvette Caravan begins its sixth trip to the National Corvette Museum four months and 21 days from today. All Caravaners Registered with the Southwest Section have received information about available hotel properties in the eight cities and towns at which we will stop. The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team has blocked rooms at a number of properties in those locations. Caravaners must make their own hotel reservations. Your Organizing Team suggests making reservations at the properties where it has blocked rooms.

All room blocks will be released 30 days before we visit each overnight stop.
Book your rooms NOW

The Southwest Organizing Team urges all Caravaners to make reservations ASAP. In the stops where the Caravan is using more than one hotel, the best rooms in the most desirable properties will go first.

Contact information for each hotel property with blocked rooms is in the list of suggested hotels Caravaners received after they registered with the Southwest Section of the Caravan. The Organizing Team suggests Caravaners contact their hotel property of choice by phone or by email. Additionally, the Organizing Team reminds all Caravaners to get a confirmation email from each property at which they reserve rooms.

New Events Announced

This week, Section Captain Bill Herold announced two key events that will take place during the Caravan. The first is the Caravan Kick-Off Meet-and-Greet on Wednesday night August 21. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Caravaners will meet the Southwest Organizing Team. The Route Book will be distributed. The Caravan "Goodie Bag" will be handed out. Organizing Team members will announce any last-minute route changes because of road construction. There will be a Q and A session with Organizing Team Members. There will be finger food deserts, raffle prizes and a cash bar.

Section Captain, Herold also announced, "Dinner with Steve Garret" which will take place on Monday night August 26th. Caravaners will meet at the Budweiser Brew House on the east corner of Kansas City's Children's Mercy Park. A casual buffet dinner will be served. Expectedly, Budweiser

products will be available along with other beers and wine at a no-host bar. This event will cost \$50.00 per person.

The after-dinner speaker is Steve Garrett, host of the "Corvette Today" podcast and President of the Corvette Club of Kansas City. Multitalented Garrett also does weekend radio shows at KC's powerhouse classic rock station, "101 The Fox," and has been stadium announcer for ice hockey in Kansas City for over 30 years.

It's a little too soon to know what Garrett's presentation will cover but you can bet it will be mostly America's Sports Car with maybe a little rock 'n' roll history and hockey trivia thrown in.

To get tickets for these two Caravan events, send a check for \$75.00 per person to Southwest Caravan CFO, Paula Megowan, 7511 Wilson St., Ventura CA 93003



Corvette podcaster Steve Garrett

Other News

Route Book Staff Introduces Tribute Boxes

Looking for ways to improve the Southwest Section's famed Route Book, the Book's design staff has introduced "Tribute Boxes." They are a business card-sized spaces in the Route Book with which Caravaners can pay tribute to their Car, their Corvette Club, their Mom or Dad, their children, their pet, a politician, or anything they wish to acknowledge. Tributes are 3 1/2-in by 2-in. and cost \$150.00. Accepted formats are .jpg and .pdf. Tribute space is available from the Route Book staff. Here are some examples of Route Book Tributes

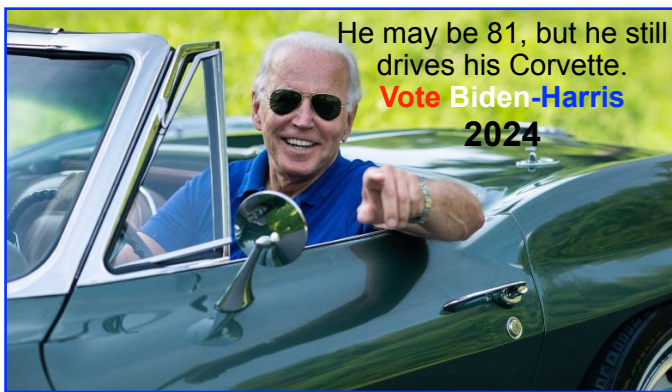
2024 Secondary Lead Car



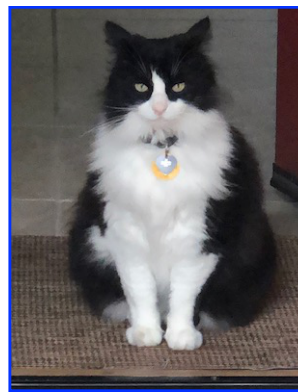
Sandy's and Hib's 2019 ZR1/ZTK
The Last Great Front Engine Corvette

Bill and Vi
Herold

Proud Members
of VCCC



He may be 81, but he still
drives his Corvette.
Vote Biden-Harris
2024



Hi. I'm Zoey the
Tuxie

I wanted to go on the Caravan but my humans, Sandy and Hib, left me at the Kittyland Resort for two freakin' weeks!

Help us Out-Be a Caravan Patron

The National Corvette Museum, which sanctions the National Corvette Caravan, does not fund Caravan Sections. It is up to each Section Captain and his or her team to raise the money necessary to put on their events. The Southwest Section relies on sponsorship, Route Book advertising, and registration fees to fund most of its activities. Generous Caravaners also have a tradition of chipping in to help the Organizing Team put on the event.

Want to show your support for the Southwest Section of the Caravan in a special way? Become a "Southwest Caravan Patron". Each person donating \$100 or more to the Southwest Caravan Organizing becomes a "Patron" and will be listed on a page in the front of the Southwest Caravan [Route](#)

Janet Cherry	Roy and Carolyn Burgener	Tony and Paula Megowan
Doug and Loretta Campbell	Craig and Laura Kerezman	Bill and Viola Herold
Harvey and Jane Price	Mark Vanderwyk/Justine Cleak	Hib and Sandy Halverson
Matt and Lark Stevens	John and Gail Lercel	Bruce and Gina Coleman
Mary Hall	John and Susan Beard	Joanne Mattingly
Lawrence and Rosemary Pittman	Lynn Thompson	Peter and Melinda Walenceus
Greg and Madonna Bowlay	Roberta Degener	Dave and Dawn Gordon
Stephen and Maria Hudson	Mickey Lookman	Don and Jeanne Allen
Jim and Kathy Carr	Paul and Carol Hannah	John and Pam Waschbusch
Joe and Julia Smith	Dennis Trammel	Steve and Susan Royce
Craig and Micky Gill	Larry and Pam Fortmuller	Susan and David Pratt
Mike and Joann Holpuch	Lisa Klockenteger	Cary and Ryan Rehm
Greg and Gisele Don	Thomas Kelly and Marie Demarbiex	Alexander and Gloria Best
Rod Walker	Larry and Janet King	David and Myrle Pentz
Roy Howell	Fred and Judy Kolstad	Greg and Paul Kolstad
Steve Bush	Dennis and Sheila Durham	

[Book Donations](#) from Southwest Caravan Patrons. At this point obtaining major sponsorships, selling advertising, and significant income from Registrations is still ongoing. The Organizing Team is relying on money lent to it by its members to fund its work, so until then...we need all the help we can get.

Those interested in the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team's Patron Program should contact Section XO Halverson at the email address or phone number listed in the "Information" section below.

The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team thanks all of our Patrons:

The Return of the Blankee Benefit

Starting with the 2014 Caravan, the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team has commissioned commemorative "stadium blankets" displaying the Southwest Corvette Caravan logo. Southwest Caravaners who became Patrons, also get this "Blankee Benefit". Our Stadium Blankets will be 50 by 60 inches. They are fur-lined with the logo and text applied by dye sublimation. They have no border with graphics and text being "full bleed".

The cozy fur-lined Southwest Caravan Blankee is perfect for Winter sports spectating, picnics, outdoor concerts, or just keeping warm in your lounge chair while watching a Sunday NASCAR race.



This is the 2024 Caravan Stadium Blanket. Image: Cmdr. Tony Megowan

Caravan Registration Information.

In eNews7 we asked Southwest Corvette Caravaners to register early. Section CFO, Paula Megowan, tells eNews that 164 cars are registered for the Southwest Section.

The fee for the Southwest Caravan costs \$100. Registration is accomplished the "old-fashioned" way. SW Caravaners will complete a Registration Form and mail that and a check for \$100 to Commander Paula Megowan, the Section's CFO.

At the end of this issue of eNews is a fillable .pdf into which you can enter data using your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Then will print the last page of this eNews then mail the finished form with your check to Paula Megowan who will email you back a confirmation.

Contact Us

We have a [page on the National Caravan website](#). We, also, have this Southwest Caravan eNews, a tradition going back to 2003. If you are not an eNews subscriber and want to start getting it, send email to SWeNews@netmotive.net and simply type "subscribe" in the subject field, then type your name in the body of the email. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/919416625640194>. Finally, email or call any member of Caravan Leadership with questions.

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Feeder Caravan Local Leaders

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Section Lieutenant Alex Best, San Diego area los-snorenios@cox.net

Caravan Merch

We have lots of goodies that registered Caravaners can buy. Show your support of the Southwest Caravan with our hats, flags, and two sizes of static cling stickers.

All are available from Section Captain Bill Herold. Contact Capt. Herold at the email address or phone number listed in the Contact Us section above.



Thanks for reading
Yeoman L. Sharke, Editor



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