

FEBRUARY 2025



The Orange Pits

OC VETTES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have gotten through the fires and now the concern is about the rain on the fire damaged areas. I know we need the water so let's hope all goes well.

I mentioned at our February general meeting that we need more volunteers to start planning some outings. We have some great multi-day trips planned but, nothing scheduled between them. Since we enjoy driving these wonderful cars and want to keep the Club active, let's put together some day trips. "Hint, Hint." It has been awhile since the Club has gone to Idlewild, Julian, San Diego, Oak Glen or Mt. Baldy to name just a few places.

Our next event is the Club Social at the Newport Rib Company in Costa Mesa, CA. It is located at 2196 Harbor Blvd. and the social starts at 6PM. The Rib Company is a family owned business that serves some of the best BBQ around. Donna and I have enjoyed going there for well over 30 years and are happy we can make it a Club event. Please respond to our email if attending the event so we can properly plan for our group.

Please stop by the entrance table at the next general meeting and sign up for a Club social. We still have open dates for Club Socials in March and July. The new 2025-2026 Social signup calendar is located behind the current page. I am sure you have that favorite little restaurant that you would like to introduce to your friends at the Club.

Respectfully,
Leo Mann, President

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
OCV Events in Blue and Italic.
For more info contact Leo Mann at 714-323-3599

DATE	EVENT	HOST
2025		
<i>Feb 4</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$30 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
Feb 14	Valentine's Day	
Feb 15	OC to LA Automotive Museum Car Cruise Day	
<i>Feb 18</i>	<i>OCV Social-Newport Rib Company</i>	<i>Leo & Donna Mann</i>
Feb 17	President's Day	
<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>OCV Board Meeting @ Keno's Anaheim Hills</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>March 4</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$30 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
March 8-16	Corvette Pirates Cruise	
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	
<i>March 18</i>	<i>OCV Social-TBD</i>	<i>???</i>
<i>March 25</i>	<i>OCV Board Meeting @ Keno's Anaheim Hills</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>April 28</i>	<i>OCV Trip to Slot Canyon</i>	<i>Bob & Cecil Blattenberg</i>
<i>Apr 30-May 4</i>	<i>Las Vegas/Route 66</i>	<i>Janet Cherry (info only)</i>
<i>May 6</i>	<i>OCV Business Meeting, Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street, Santa Ana. Dinner cost is \$30 per person.</i>	<i>Leo Mann</i>
<i>Oct 13</i>	<i>OCV Trip to Yosemite</i>	<i>Tony Siragusa & Gang</i>



MONARCH 9

JANUARY SOCIAL

JANUARY 22, 2025







RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Red Velvet Brownies



Brownies:

- **Cooking spray**
- **1 (4-oz.) bittersweet chocolate baking bar, chopped**
- **3/4 cup (6 oz.) salted butter**
- **1 1/2 cups granulated sugar**
- **4 large eggs**
- **1 1/4 cups (about 5 3/8 oz.) all-purpose flour**
- **1 tsp. baking powder**
- **1/4 tsp. table salt**
- **1 (1-oz.) bottle red liquid food coloring**
- **2 tsp. vanilla extract**

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- **1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- **1/2 cup (4 oz.) salted butter, softened**
- **6 cups (about 24 oz.) powdered sugar**

Directions

Step 1

Prepare the oven and baking pan:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease bottom and sides of a 9-inch square baking pan with cooking spray; line bottom and sides with parchment paper, allowing 2 to 3 inches to extend over sides; lightly grease (with cooking spray) parchment.

Step 2

Melt chocolate:

Microwave chocolate and butter in a large microwavable bowl on HIGH until melted and smooth, 1 1/2 to 2 minutes, stirring at 30-second intervals. Whisk in sugar; add eggs, 1 at a time, whisking just until blended after each addition.

Step 3

Make batter:

Whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Gently stir flour mixture, food coloring, and vanilla into chocolate mixture, stirring just until well incorporated.

Step 4

Bake Brownies:

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out with a few moist crumbs, 25 to 30 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack, and let cool completely, about 2 hours.

Step 5

While Brownies cool, prepare the Cream Cheese Frosting:

Beat cream cheese and softened butter in bowl of a heavy-duty stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment on medium speed until creamy.

Reduce speed to low, and gradually beat in powdered sugar until blended. Beat in vanilla. Increase speed to medium-high, and beat until light and fluffy, about 1 to 2 minutes. Spread frosting over brownies. Cut into squares.

INTERESTING FACT

THE EIFFEL TOWER GROWS



The Eiffel Tower gains approximately 15 centimeters (6 inches) in height during the summer. This expansion occurs due to the thermal expansion of the iron structure. As temperatures rise, the iron heats up and expands, causing the tower to increase in size.

JOKES OF THE MONTH



"WOULD YOU LIKE OUR VALENTINE SPECIAL . . .
OR ARE YOU MARRIED?"



"I DIDN'T MIND THAT HIS VALENTINE WAS A E-CARD. THE BIG LETDOWN WAS GETTING THE BOX OF E-CHOCOLATES."



"This year I wrote you a Valentine poem: Flowers are nice, candy divine, but what we really need is a bottle of wine!"

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	CLUB MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY	Years
FEB					
2	Sue Walker	5	Martin & Chris Latham	Ray & Ellie Cranston	44 WOW!
4	Hank Grampre	13	Mickey & Sue Lookman	Betsy Slauson	29
5	George McDaniel	14	Ray & Ellie Cranston	Lynda Fox	26
8	Ferris Worden			Leo & Donna Mann	14
16	Ray Cranston			Dave & Chris Hamel	6
17	Bernie DeMarkey			Ivan & Ruth Nichols	6
21	Mike Blume			Mike & Lori Blume	5
22	Fred Fossek			Pat & Angie O'Keefe	1
28	Rosemary Shearer				
MAR					
4	Ellie Cranston			Bill & Terry Kupper	25
15	Dave Tally			Bob & Cecil Blattenberg	16
22	Bob Blattenberg			Kevin Donnelly	4
25	Richard Thompson			George & Sarah McDaniel	3
				Daryl & Valerie Martin	2

SLOT CANYON TRIP

Hosted Bob and Cecil Blattenberg

Earlier this year we announced plans for a club trip to see the slot canyons near Page, Arizona. It's now time to get more serious about the trip details, schedule, etc.

Depending on the club's interest, Cecil and I plan to do a "site tour" sometime this winter in advance of our club trip to finalize details, check out hotels and secure reservations for touring the slot canyons. In our earlier business meeting when I asked for a show of hands from those interested in going we got a GREAT reception. We wanted to give you more details about the trip, solicit any input you may have and get a better handle on how many of you plan to attend.

What are the Slot Canyons? Take a look at the pictures below:



Pretty cool huh? For thousands of years running water formed these geological marvels on the Indian reservation near Page. Previously closed to the public, there are now tours offered. Indian guides will escort us through the canyons giving us the history and helping you take quality photos. There are two areas where slot canyon tours are available; the upper and the lower Antelope Canyons.

At our meeting I mentioned that there are mobility issues with the tour. Generally, you will be walking on flat ground (like you see in the picture). However, the passages can be narrow, there are some stairs to descend in one canyon and a short ladder with handrails in the other. Those needing a wheelchair or scooter, or with problems climbing a short ladder need to be mindful. NOTE: Cecil and I will actually take the tours during our site visit, and will be able to give much better advice on mobility when we return.

Here's our planned agenda: Our experience is that shorter travel days and easy days touring appeal to our group, so our plan is designed accordingly. Also, we are aware that the agenda dovetails with the May Route 66 trip, so we've made sure those who want to go on Route 66 can do both trips. April 28 - We'll leave Orange County mid-morning to avoid rush hour and drive 4 hours (275 miles) to Henderson for the night.

April 29 - Again, in mid-morning we will drive 4.5 hours (290 miles) to Page. Plan on checking in to the hotel for 3 or 4 nights. We'll do a boat tour that afternoon (big boat, no waves on the river... no sea sickness issues) to see the slot canyons from the water.

April 30, May 1,2 - We plan on touring both the upper and lower slot canyons. Cecil and I have done this before and felt there are enough differences that it's worth touring both. On one of those days, we will also go see Horseshoe Bend - an interesting overlook of the river.

May 2 - Plan on departing either later on May 1 or May 2, depending on what further travel plans you want to incorporate into your trip.

A note about other travel options: Cecil and I will be leaving the group after Page and going to Flagstaff to visit friends. While the club trip is only to Page, there are TONS and I mean TONS of side trips you may want to consider if you want to take advantages of the area. Zion and Bryce are on our way to Page. The Grand Canyon is south of Page. Moab and Arches National Park (one of our absolute favorite hiking parks) is not that far; neither are Canyonland or Canyon de Chelly. It really is a beautiful part of the country and provides lots of great places to visit. Kingman and Seligman, Route 66 focal points, are on the way home if you're planning on that event too.

Cecil and I feel these trips are as much about enjoying our club members as they are the location. So, we are assuming that we will all want to stay at the same hotel. That said, we will also list alternatives for those who want

to use points, have other preferences etc. We will also make dinner reservations for everyone for each night but, again, we understand if there are other arrangements some of you prefer.

What I need from you: First, if you have any suggestions on the agenda, hotels, places to eat, etc., please let me know! Most importantly, I really need to know if you are seriously interested in going with us to Page. The tour guides will need head counts, and we need to be sure the hotels have rooms, restaurants can accommodate us, etc.... So PLEASE let Cecil or me know via email with a note saying you are IN or OUT. As always, just give Cecil or me a call, text or email if you have any questions.

Thanks again,
Bob and Cecil

**OC TO LA AUTOMOTIVE
MUSEUM CAR CRUISE DAY
February 15, 2025
Submitted by Steve Bronston**

O.C. Vettes Members:

Here's follow up info on the 3 Museum Cruise that takes place on Saturday, February 15th, 2025.

First off, THIS IS NOT AN O.C. VETTES event. Various vehicles will be attending, club affiliated or not. This is three fabulous car museums getting together and offering an inclusive one-day deal to visit all three locations PLUS The Hillbank Motors location, 2 doors down from Segerstrom, where they buy and sell Cobras and other high end vehicles.

Food and refreshments are included and will be provided at the various locations with lunch at The Lions Museum. If you're interested in participating, email me and I'll comprise a list of our club members so we can meet and drive together. Plan on the day lasting from 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

Here is the itinerary:

Cruise Package includes ACCESS TO ALL 3 MUSEUMS, coffee, and donuts at the Segerstrom Shelby Event Center, refreshments at Marconi, and lunch at Lions. Each package is the same except for sandwich choice. \$60.00 per person. Purchase tickets online.

SCHEDULE:

Arrive at Segerstrom at 7:30am

Leave for Marconi at 10:00am

Arrive at Marconi at 10:30am

Leave for Lions at 11:30am

Arrive at Lions at 12:30pm

Package 1 Includes all above, with a Turkey Bacon Jack Sandwich Box Lunch

Package 2 Includes all above with a Cafe Chicken Club Sandwich Box Lunch

Package 3 Include all above with a Pastrami & Swiss Sandwich Box Lunch

Package 4 Includes all above with Vegetarian Sandwich Box Lunch

Package 5 includes all above with a Roast Beef Sandwich Box Lunch

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
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
February 4, 2025
Santa Ana Elks Lodge

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President Leo Mann. Vice President Daryl Martin, Treasurer Ray Cranston, Secretary Carol Thompson, and Director Steve Bronston were also present. Thirty-three members attended the meeting.
- II. Flag Salute: President
- III. General Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2025, moved for approval by Bob Blattenberg and seconded by Mike Blume. Minutes were approved.
- IV. Reports -
 - A. Board of Directors
 - i. President: Leo Mann. No report.
 - ii. Vice President: Daryl Martin. No report.
 - iii. Secretary: Carol Thompson. No report.
 - iv. Treasurer: Ray Cranston – Ray passed out the Treasurer’s statement.
 - v. Director: Steve Bronston. No report.
 - B. Appointed Positions
 - i. NCCC Governor: Janet Cherry. Absent.
 - ii. Membership: Donna Mann. Absent. A visitor came into the meeting minutes before it concluded. At the end of the meeting, Steve Bronston, Carol Thompson and Leo Mann greeted the visitor. Her name is Anita Tse and she drives 2023 Torch Red C8. Anita filled out a visitor form.
 - iii. Corvette Museum Ambassador: Tony Siragusa. No report.
 - iv. Member News: Sue Lookman. No report.
 - v. Apparel Coordinator: Gary Oedeker. Absent.
 - vi. Website: Steve Bronston. No report.
 - vii. Newsletter: Conda Takanabe. Absent. Leo reported that Conda just had foot surgery and is homebound. She would like members with any newsletter information to email her by Friday.

- viii. 50/50 Coordinator: Masako Burggraf. No report.
- ix. Elks Club Ambassador: Tony Siragusa. No report.
- x. Homecoming Fundraiser Liaison: Conda Takanabe. Absent.

V. New Business

A. Christmas Party 2025

- i. OCV members need to decide on what to do for this year's party.
 - I. We can hold it at the OC Mining Company again or look for a new venue.
 - I. Most other locations would probably cost at least \$!20 per person.
 - II. Members agreed the OC Mining Company worked well except for the shortage of prime rib.
 - I. The room was a great size, and the sound system was good.
 - III. The restaurant gave us \$100 back and three gift certificates for couples' brunches (each \$90 approximate value).
 - I. OCV will hold a special raffle for the certificates, with tickets for \$5 each.
 - IV. The group voted to hold the event at OC Mining Company again with the clarification that the food must be enough for everyone.
 - V. Ray Cranston agreed to work with OC Mining Company.

B. 2025 Club Socials

- i. March and June are still open for a hosted social.
 - I. Mickey and Sue Lookman agreed to take June.
- ii. Our new fiscal year starts in August, and we have no socials booked from August through October.
 - I. Please step up and host a social for one of the open months.

C. Day Trips and Outings

- i. We need volunteers to set up new driving adventures for the club. If you have not helped with an event in over a year, then you are past due. Help us make the club better.
 - I. Leo pointed out that most of the events in recent months were put on by Tony Siragusa.

- II. Tony and Leo stressed that others need to suggest a trip. Members will not have to plan the whole event, but ideas are needed.
- III. It would be nice to have some suggestions from the ladies for events. They can be for the whole club or just the ladies.

VI. Past Events

- A. January 11 trip to March Air Force Base Museum.
 - i. The trip was hosted by Tony Siragusa and Martin Latham.
 - ii. It was fantastic and very educational. Everyone had a great time.
 - iii. There were 17 cars and 30 people.
 - iv. There were two tours, one of the hangars, and one of the 100+ planes on the flight line.
 - v. Lunch was from Jersey Mike's, and it was served under the wing of a DC-10 Air Tanker.
 - vi. There were lots of photo opportunities for the Corvettes and everyone got some great pictures.
- B. January Social, Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at Monarch 9 restaurant.
 - i. Hosted by Pat and Angie O'Keefe.
 - ii. There were around 30 people in attendance.
 - iii. Everyone agreed the food and service were excellent.

VII. Upcoming Events

- A. February 15th, 2025, Three Museum Cruise starts at 7:30AM.
 - i. Includes visits to the Segerstrom, Marconi and Lions Museums.
 - I. There will also be a visit to Hillbank Motor Sports, located near the Marconi, where they make Shelby Cobra assemblies.
 - ii. The cost is \$60.00 per person, which includes coffee and a box lunch.
 - iii. This is not an official Club event.
 - iv. Members who want to attend need to order tickets online from the Lions Museum web site.
 - v. If anyone wants to caravan, please let Steve Bronston know and he will set up a meeting point.

- B. February Social, February 18, 6PM at Newport Rib Company, 2196 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa.
 - i. Hosted by Leo and Donna Mann
- C. Slot Canyons Tour Apr 28 thru May 2, 2025.
 - i. Hosted by Bob and Cecil Blattenberg.
 - ii. There are 14 cars attending. There is room for 3 more. If you want to go, you need to contact Bob and Cecil.
 - iii. The trip will end in time for members to participate in Route 66 Fun Run if desired.
 - iv. The first night will be at the Tuscany Suites in Las Vegas for \$65.
 - v. In Page, OCV will stay at the Comfort Inn for \$189/night for 3 nights.
 - vi. The Upper Canyon tour will cost \$85pp. The Lower Canyon tour will be \$115pp. Bob will send out more info when it is time to book tours.
 - vii. Participants should bring their Golden Age pass or senior park pass if they have one.
 - viii. No selfie sticks are allowed in the parks.
- D. Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, October 13-16, 2025
 - i. Twenty-three members have signed up to go on the trip.
 - ii. We will have one night at Oakhurst and two nights at Murphy's.
 - iii. Tony Siragusa sent an email with information regarding accommodations, and rooms are booked.
 - iv. More people are welcome to join the group. You can cancel up to 30 days out and still receive a full refund.
- VIII. Member Forum
 - A. Bob Blattenberg recently purchased an Austin Healey. It was fully restored 30 years ago and has been in storage since then.
- IX. Opportunity drawing of \$55 won by Dave Hamel. Additional prizes were won by Ray Cranston, Sue Walker, and Henry Walker.
- X. Next Board Meeting is February 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Keno's in Anaheim Hills.
- XI. Next General Meeting is Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6:30 at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge.
 - A. Agenda items for the next meeting are due to Leo Mann by February 30.
- XII. Badge Fines \$1.00 paid to Ray Cranston.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn at 7:02 by Mickey Lookman, seconded by Carole Howard. 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 2024 – 2025 Club Officers

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Leo Mann	(714) 323-3599
Vice President	Daryl Martin	(562) 522-5753
Secretary	Carol Thompson	(714) 749-1486
Treasurer	Ray Cranston	(562) 665-1709
Director	Steve Bronston	(714) 458-1675

VOLUNTEER OFFICES

NCCC Governor	Janet Cherry	(562) 544-1053
Membership Chair	Donna Mann	(714) 323-3555
National Corvette Museum Ambassador	Tony Siragusa	(714) 308-0096
Apparel Coordinator	Gary Oedekerker	(949) 733-1047
Website Liaison	Steve Bronston	(714) 458-1675
Newsletter/Historian	Conda Takanabe	(714) 595-1070
Member News	Sue Lookman	(714) 767-3451
50-50 Coordinator	Masako Burggraf	(714) 936-8528
Homecoming Chair	Conda Takanabe	(714) 595-1070

