

# CORVETTES OF BAKERSFIELD

Summer 2023 Edition



## IN THIS ISSUE:

The President's And Past  
President's Message  
The New Board of Directors  
Autism and 4th of July Parade  
Wildflower Run  
Nethercutt Run  
Steve Downs & Chuy's Car shows  
Chuy's and Salty's Cruise-In  
The Wallaces go to the Indy 500  
The Hayden's First Car  
And Much More...

## The Fun Never Ends!

This issue brings us to the end of the Spring/ Summer which has been chock-full of Corvette events and happenings. After the Gambler's Classic in March, COB has participated in parades, a Wildflower run, the Nethercutt Museum Run, car shows, barbecues, etc. and we celebrated the 70th birthday of the Corvette this past June 30. We have not stopped as far as having a great time with events and runs. This issue will show you all the great times we've had the past 5 months, and more. On the cover we have a photo of one of our stops, The Riboli Family Winery in Paso Robles, on our Cambria Pines Lodge Run on July 9. Let the Board of Directors know what you would like to see and where would you like to go for a run. We can make it happen with everybody's participation.

By Adrian Medina

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Danny Ellison**

Dear fellow Corvettes of Bakersfield members,

Hello everyone! I would like to take a few moments to bring you all up to date on the recent changes to the club Board of Directors. The new directors are:

President: Danny Ellison  
Vice President: Chris Espitia  
Secretary: Donna Ellison  
Treasurer: Kim Miller  
Membership: Linda Stacey  
Event Coordinator: Liz Zaninovich  
Sergeant at Arms: Steve Dallons  
Webmaster: Virgil Miller  
Newsletter Editor: Adrian Medina  
Public Relations: Diane Wallace



As president I have some big shoes to follow with Diane Wallace's leadership. Diane did an outstanding job and a LOT of 'behind the scenes' work making things happen especially with sponsors, donations and getting our club visible to the public. That takes a special kind of person and I'll have a hard time assuming that role.

I personally know many of you from our previous years with the club starting back in April 2014. For those that don't know me, and I hope to meet you soon, I'm on my third Corvette... a '57 an '02 and now a 2016 Arctic White Stingray. I have served on past Board of Directors as Sergeant at Arms and two terms as Events Coordinator.

I know the summer months are hard for members to get excited about doing a lot of club activity due the vacations and especially heat. I would however, request that you consider participating when you can. I've noticed that our meeting attendance has dwindled down to a much smaller gathering than before. We are all busy in our lives with personal reasons/issues but without membership participation, enthusiasm diminishes. When that happens it's hard to be motivated without club member's support. So, I would ask, please, if you can spare the time and want to see our club move forward in a positive direction, try to attend meetings. Your attendance is what makes meetings fun and worthwhile.

The new board recently met and confirmed with the general membership that we would like to move forward with Gambler's Classic for 2024. The dates are April 18-20, 2024. As the months progress, we all need to step forward and help make this event happen. As many of you know, it is a major production to pull off an event of this magnitude. Luckily, we have most of the foundation already laid out and will be focusing on forming committees to finalize the remaining areas of responsibility. Gambler's Classic is our main fund raising event. It's a lot of work but also a lot of fun.

We are just starting a fresh new year of events and activities and we all know that's what makes owning a Corvette fun. Liz, as our new events coordinator, has some fun ideas but would really appreciate input and help from you the members to put plans and ideas into motion.

As you can see, the Public Relations position has finally been filled. Our past president, Diane, held two positions, President and Public Relations. Being excellent in public relations, she has offered too accept the position on the Board of Directors.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere wishes for a productive and fun year as club president and hope I can do the club justice in that role.

Sincerely,  
Danny Ellison, COB President



# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Usually when one is asked to write an outgoing letter, it is because they are leaving,...but to the contrary, with this brief note, I am here for the long run as I am taking a position of Public Relations/Charity Liaison on the Board of Directors.

As your past 2022-2023 COB president, I am thrilled to look forward to a great year filled with fun activities and great camaraderie. The new, 2023-2024 COB board is a talented and excited group, already cruising with ideas and plans.

We are a lucky club to have such a strong foundation with 56 years of history! Our almost 104 members will continue the tradition to being present in our community, supporting worthwhile causes, while also keeping us ahead of the times with social media, etc.

Like it's been said before, "We join for the cars, but stay for the people!" I love my Corvette family! Thank you to all COB members for your support last year! Now, let's have MORE FUN! **VROOOM!!!!**

Sincerely,

Diane Wallace, Public Relations/Charity liaison

## Meet the COB Board of Directors



Danny Ellison  
President



Chris Espitia  
Vice-President



Kim Miller  
Treasurer



Donna Ellison  
Secretary



Liz Zaninovich  
Event Coordinator



Linda Stacey  
Membership



Virgil Miller  
Webmaster



Diane Wallace  
Public Relations



Adrian Medina  
Newsletter



Steve Dallons  
Sergeant-At-Arms

# Events and Happenings

The following pages are some of the many events that kept Corvettes of Bakersfield busy and active. We hope you enjoy the memories and if you weren't there, you missed a really great time. We hope to see you at our next event.

## Kern Autism Network Awareness Festival Beach Park Parade/Rosemary's

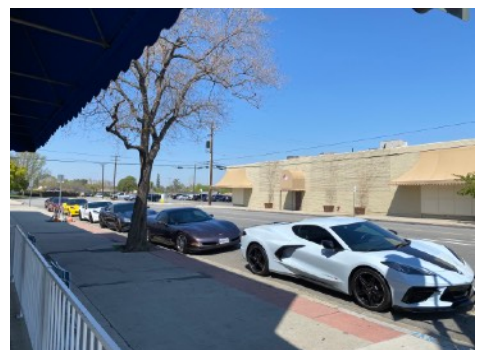
On April 1st, COB was invited to the Kern Autism Network's Autism Awareness Car Parade and Family Festival being held at Beach Park. We first gathered at the Carl's Jr. on Rosedale next to the Hungry Hunter and then 7 Corvettes caravanned to our staging positions at Beach Park. After a mishap with an errant roll of crepe paper streamer tape falling into the engine bay of a C8 Corvette while decorating our cars, (thanks Liz and Chris for the help), we got to carry Miss Bakersfield Waverly Reifka and Ms. Bakersfield Maddy Garrett on the trip around the park for three or four laps. Kids and adults alike were fans of the Corvettes and really appreciated them. After the parade, we rolled over to Rosemary's to enjoy some lunch and ice cream. While at Rosemary's we got to photograph several generations of Rosemary's ladies. What a great day and a beautiful one at that.

by Adrian Medina





# Kern Autism Network Awareness Festival Beach Park Parade/Rosemary's (Cont.)





# Hodel's Brunch of Corvettes

## Arvin Wildflower Run

What a busy weekend Corvettes of Bakersfield had. Saturday, April 1st, the club participated in a parade for the Kern Autism Network's festival at Beach Park with seven cars participating in the parade. Shortly afterwards we went to Rosemary's to have lunch and ice cream.

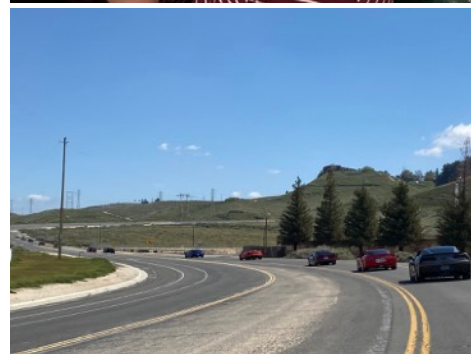
Sunday, April 2nd, we had 16 Corvettes and several other 'tin' cars participate in our "Brunch of Corvettes" at Hodels on Olive Drive. We had a magnificent buffet meal, and eventually rolled ourselves out to get ready to hit the highway.

We drove around the edge of Bakersfield through the oil fields into Hart Park where we did an impromptu parade with, then, 13 Corvettes driving in and out of the roads in the park waving to the people that were having picnics and just relaxing. Many a phone came out to take pictures of our cars as we drove by as well as kids screaming hello to us.

We then went to the back roads of the beautiful green countryside towards the Bakersfield National Cemetery where some of us went to pay respects to our veterans that are interred in this very scenic and somber cemetery.

We then headed down Highway 223 towards Arvin in search of wildflowers. We were able to find one turn out that overlooked the valley and had some beautiful scenic views of the very few wildflowers we found. Many of our new members have never been in this part of our county and were amazed by the beauty and wonderful roads we drove through. All in all, we had a fun day and everyone had a great time.

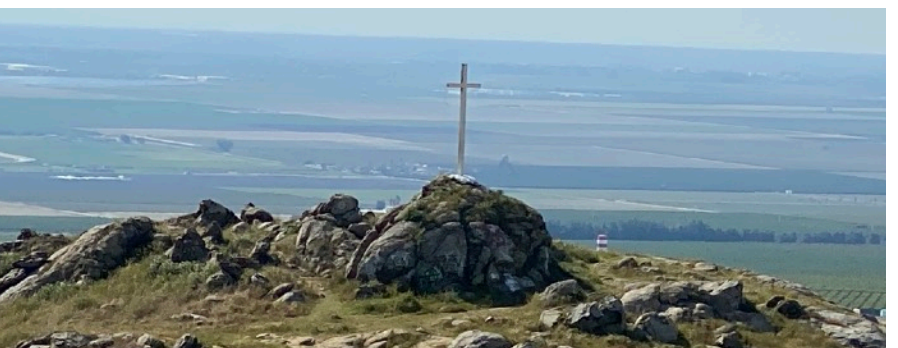
By Adrian Medina





# Hodel's Brunch of Corvettes

## Arvin Wildflower Run (cont.)





# Nethercutt Museum/ Route 66 Classic Grill

ATTENTION...all lovers of cars and all manner of collectibles. This is one museum you must visit. You will see all kinds of antique and some modern vehicles meticulously restored to better than new condition. Even the colors on the cars are authentic to the original color on the vehicles. On display, you will see hundreds of vintage vehicles, including a reproduction of the very first internal combustion engine vehicle made by Daimler-Benz in 1886. Hundreds of vehicles are lined up with famous names, such as Duesenberg, Packard, Ruxton and Cord as well as European vehicles such as Isotta-Franschini, Rolls-Royce, Bugatti and more. There are also many obscure names as they were over 1600 manufacturers of the early automobile in the United States. Each vehicle is fully operational and are driven on the streets at least once a year. Many times you may have seen them in the Pasadena Rose Parade carrying dignitaries.

The collector of these fine automobiles, some of which have won the Pebble Beach Concourse D'Elegance 'Best of Show' a total of six times, four times more than any other collector, J.B. Nethercutt was a nephew of Merle Nethercutt Norman; famous for Merle Norman cosmetics. J.B. bought his first collectible for \$500 and personally restored it at the cost of \$60,000 in 18 months. He had entered it in the Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance in 1958 and won 'Best of Show'...first time out. J.B.'s son, Jack, and wife Helen now carry on the work that J.B. and wife Dorothy began.

Corvettes of Bakersfield made the hour and 20 minute journey to Sylmar to see this fine collection of automobiles and an outstanding display of music boxes that can fill the room in size and sound. Many of these music boxes contained a multitude of instruments that were all operated by a bellows blowing air to manipulate the instruments...a marvel of vintage engineering. 13 Corvettes with 25 members plus one guest caravanned over the ridge and saw many collectibles such as mascots (hood ornaments), vintage brass headlamps, dolls, antique furniture, and much more.

After our two hour tour of the marble and chandeliered Grand Salon and music room, we went outside to view a fully restored steam locomotive and Pullman car. As I said, everything is fully restored and operational.

Famished by the late hour and stair climbing three floors of exhibits, we proceeded to drive through the haphazard streets of LA to the Route 66 Classic Grill in Santa Clarita. We were catered to by two wonderful waitresses and were served very quickly. The food was wonderful and it is highly recommended.

Everyone had a great time and were amazed at what they saw. We encourage everyone to a visit this museum and arrange to have a tour of the Grand Salon. Here's a link to the Nethercutt Collection website:  
<http://www.nethercuttcollection.org/>

Special thanks to the very talented curator, Kyle Irwin, who maintains the collection and humorously described every aspect of the exhibits. Thanks, also, to his assistants, Hank and Robert.

Congratulations to our \$95.00 50-50 'member's contribution' winner, Diane Wallace and thanks to everyone who attended this run.

Click on our Flickr page to view hundreds of photos of the museum exhibits: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/corvettes/albums/72177720307710362>

By Adrian Medina



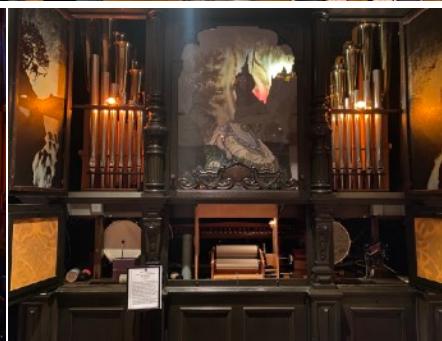
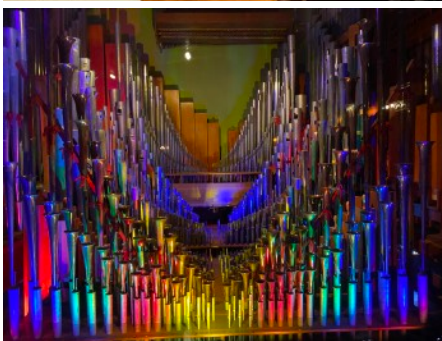


# Nethercutt Museum/ Route 66 Classic Grill (cont.)





# Nethercutt Museum/ Route 66 Classic Grill (cont.)





## Nethercutt Museum/ Route 66 Classic Grill (cont.)



## April 2023 COB Members Meeting.

We had a good meeting in April where we discussed many things such as events, upcoming elections for board members, discussion and approval of our club bylaws and much more. One of the things discussed was that out of 124 club members, only a small percentage participate on a regular basis. Case in point, less than 30 people showed up for the meeting tonight. Please sign up for and participate in the upcoming events we have planned for this year. If there is anything you would like to do or have our members participate in, please step up and create a run or event. Although we don't expect everyone to do everything, we would like to see our attendance numbers go up. Our members are what makes Corvettes of Bakersfield great.

One of the highlights of our meeting was the presentation of a beautiful wooden flag with Salty's BBQ logo carved in it and presented to the owner of Salty's and supporter of our club, Jeff Salters; and, yes, we broke it in proper by using it to say our Pledge of Allegiance as we always do before we start our meeting. A special thanks to Jeff for letting us use his banquet room for our meetings. Many thanks to Virgil Miller for creating and carving the beautiful wooden masterpiece.

Congratulations to raffle prize winners Jeanne Allen, Dick Compton, Carl Lange, Michael Rouw, Janice Dean and our 50-50 \$100.00 'member's contribution' winner, Donna Ellison.

By Adrian





# COB Bar-B-Que At The Sarver's

On a beautiful day in May, we held the COB barbecue at the palatial home of our gracious hosts, fellow COB members Cole and Staci Sarver. Mitch Townsend, with the help of Mark, Ken, Virgil, Henry and other bystanders, cooked up some wonderful tri-tip and chicken and a huge pot of beans. All the members brought a side dish which consisted of salads, bread, chips and dip, deviled eggs and other side dishes as well as raffle prizes. We had an abundance of food. We also had a table full of desserts such as strawberry-blueberry cobbler, cakes, cookies, and brownies.

We held a raffle with a multitude of prizes, including a patriotic corn hole game, gift cards, and other wonderful prizes. Kathy Gallego won our 50-50 'member's contribution' of \$153.00

Over 40 members of Corvettes of Bakersfield had a great feast to start the summer right. Thanks again to Cole and Staci for their wonderful hospitality.

By Adrian Medina





# COB May Meeting Scholarship Presentation

COB had a very productive meeting in May with lots of goodies and lots of events planned for the upcoming months.

We start off, as always, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Before the meeting started everyone had their Salty's meal and were already cutting into the pies that members brought for our 'pie potluck'. We had the old standbys such as apple, cherry and pumpkin pie and also some cheesecake, blueberry cream and homemade pecan pie. What a spread!

Francisco Espinoza Castro, a student of Bakersfield College who received one of Corvettes of Bakersfield's Automotive Technology Scholarships, was on hand and spoke with gratitude of receiving the scholarship. He will definitely put it to good use. Also on hand were representatives of Three Way Chevrolet and Bakersfield Hyundai who received awards for sponsoring the Gambler's Classic. Carl Lange represented Valley Strong Credit Union.

It was a fun and a very sociable meeting that is one of the shortest ones we've had in a long time lasting only an hour and 18 minutes.

By Adrian Medina





# Steve Downs Melanoma Car Show

Good time today at the Steve Downs Melanoma Foundation car show; although the weather did get a little toasty.

COB members Ed Combs won first place in the Corvette class with his C1 and Mitch won best of the show (I think) with his blue T-bird.

Thank you to every single person that came out to join us for the 3rd Annual Car Show. We had such a great event and it was all because of you!!! We appreciate all the volunteers and help to make it possible.

By Danny Ellison and Staci Cole





# Chuy's Summertime Car Show

As we rolled into the parking lot for Chuy's Summertime Car Show early this morning, we were already feeling the effects of the mounting heat that was to hit us in the afternoon. We reach the high temperature of 97° yet there was still a large crowd of people walking amongst the beautiful cars and checking them out. Among them were the Kern County pageant princesses and lots of kids and families strolling around.

We had 6 COB Corvettes attending the car show, but there were many other Corvettes scattered around the parking lot.

A raffle prize was donated by COB and put together by President, Diane Wallace. She also gave away two tickets to Flight Adventure Park to lucky little Levi.

Congratulations to Ed and Linda Combs who won a sponsors choice award from the owners of Stockdale West Plaza and also a beautiful Best of Show charcuterie board presented by Kern County Corvettes.

Profits from the car show benefited the Bakersfield Firefighters Burn Foundation.  
By Adrian Medina





## COB Day At Chuy's Cruise-In

We all had a fun time at our "Root Beer Float Night" for the club's first Chuy's Cruise-in for this year. The weather was a little warm when we first arrived but it cooled down nicely as the evening progressed. Of course the two popup canopies and the root beer floats provided by Ron & Denise really helped.

We started out with 12 Corvettes but a few more joined us during the evening. Several of those Vette owners were non club members and Diane's recruiting efforts were in high gear. Also we sold several tickets for the up coming Corvette Birthday Party diner at Salty's on Friday, June 30th.

For those that were unable to attend this evenings event, we will do it again next Friday, June 23rd at Salty's on White Lane. Hope to see you there and everyone is invited.

By Danny Ellison



## COB Day at Salty's Cruise-In

As a club, COB agreed to go to Chuy's every third Thursday of the month and to Salty's every fourth Friday. At June's Salty's gathering we had over 18 Corvettes park together with Corvettes of Bakersfield plus other members parked elsewhere. The weather was spectacular and we wish we could carry it over till next weekend when we celebrate the Corvette's 70th birthday; also at Salty's BBQ. Unfortunately, it will be over 100° then.

By Adrian Medina





# COB 70th Corvette Birthday Party

Corvettes of Bakersfield celebrated the big 70th birthday of the Corvette; born on June 30, 1953. The big birthday party was held at Salty's Barbecue and Catering on White Lane in Bakersfield amidst a hot 104° day. Many participants dined in the cool banquet room at Salty's being served by Jeff Salters himself and his crew. On the menu was delicious tri-tip, chicken, and macaroni and cheese. Jeff is also a proud owner of a C7 Z06 Corvette.

In spite of the heat, we had many spectators walking around, looking at all the Corvettes estimated to be about 70 cars. Some spectators even brought their own prized automobiles to do drive-bys.

Also present were Bakersfield beauty queens Mrs. Bakersfield, Miss Bakersfield, Ms. Bakersfield and Miss Teen Bakersfield. It's always a pleasure to have them make our Vettes even more beautiful. They were quite helpful in dispensing the raffle prizes to all the lucky winners.

The Bakersfield College Automotive Technology Center brought their student-prepared racing car as well as 3 students who receive a scholarship from Corvettes of Bakersfield.

We made new friends from all over Bakersfield, and even as far away as Hanford and Visalia, and further north with the Central Valley Corvette club. They were notoriously known for winning many of our great raffle prizes. Thank you for making the long trip to our event.

Thanks to all who participated and helped put together this fun event.

For hundreds of photos of this event, click on our Flickr link:

<https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720309475607>





# COB 70th Corvette Birthday Party (cont.)





# COB 70th Corvette Birthday Party (cont.)





# Comrades and Canopies Skydiving and Car Show

COB was invited to attend the Comrades and Canopies Skydiving event on July 1st where 14+ veterans, many old-timers, skydive either separately or in tandem at the Taft Airport Sky Diving School. Sign ups were available for other folks to make their first skydive.

We were proud to show our patriotic colors and our Corvettes at the mini car show where there were many other military support vendors attending.

Five Intrepid COB member's braved the high heat and were later joined by Jeff Salters in his Z06 Corvette. Jeff received an award for all the support he gives to military causes. There was also other certificates and awards given to those who have jumped presented on behalf of our State Senator, Shannon Grove.

It's really wild to see people jump out of perfectly good airplanes. After a while, since our food vendor wasn't going to show up till much later, we decided to go have some pizza at the Pizza Factory in Taft. Delicious!!

By Adrian Medina





# Westchester 4th of July Parade

**H**appy 4th of July, Citizens! Today we had the honor of participating in the 34th annual Westchester 4th of July Parade in Bakersfield. We had 13 Corvettes staging and decorating their Vettes in the beautiful Old Westchester neighborhood where many of the homes were decorated in red white and blue colors; and where most of the spectators were wearing their patriotic colors. Bakersfield is well known for its patriotism, and it shows in every event we participate in.

We were happy to carry the Bakersfield Pageant Queens Peggy Rivera – Mrs. Bakersfield, Waverley Reifka – Miss Bakersfield, Gabrielle Zaragoza – Miss Teen Bakersfield and Maddie Garrett-Ms. Bakersfield. It is always a pleasure to have them ride with us in the parade.

As we were winding down the road on the parade route, many of the spectators have a tradition of dowsing the participants with water guns. One of our Corvette drivers thought it would be fun to drive close to them and he was surprised when they fired at him...all in good fun. The water of course wiped right off afterwards.

Many thanks to Kim Price, former Mrs. Bakersfield 2018 and Peggy Rivera, current Mrs. Bakersfield, for helping Corvettes of Bakersfield get organized and collaborating with us in our events. Thanks, also, to the young Marines who carried our banner for Corvettes of Bakersfield.

After the parade, some of us COB paraders were hungry and went to have brunch at Tina Marie's restaurant. A great time was had by all.

For hundreds of pictures of this event, click on our Flickr page at this link: <https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720309561543>





# Westchester 4th of July Parade (cont.)





# Westchester 4th of July Parade (cont.)





# Run To Cambria Pines Lodge

On Sunday, July 9, Corvettes of Bakersfield had 30 members sign up for a beautiful drive to Cambria, California for brunch at the Cambria Pines Lodge. Leaving Bakersfield's 95° weather, we drove into the sea coast village of Cambria where it was a cool 69° and sunny.

15 Corvettes staged at Mauricio's restaurant in Bakersfield that morning and caravanned their way to Paso Robles where we stopped at the Riboli Family of San Antonio Winery and indulged in their wines and beautiful gift shop right on Highway 46 in Paso Robles. After a short rest and buying spree, we went on to beautiful Cambria where everything seems to be green and flowering all year long.

Cambria Pines Lodge was very accommodating and friendly in handling our large group and we had a nice meal there. After our brunch, we walked the beautiful grounds and played games on the lawn. Afterwards, our group broke up and went their own way and a large portion of us went to the Cambria Nursery and Florist a few blocks from the Lodge. This is a large nursery and is beautifully decorated with many gift ideas.

A few of us decided to spend the night at the Cambria Lodge and had a nice dinner there. The next morning we went our separate ways after breakfast.

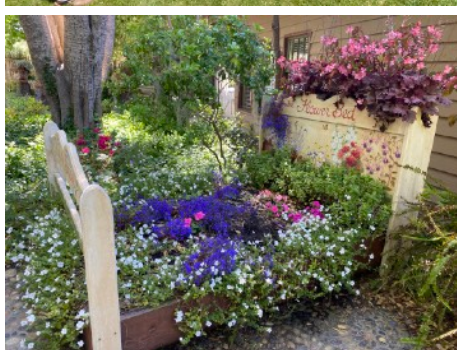
Thanks to Diane Wallace for putting this run together and congratulations to Janice Dean for winning the \$165.00 50-50 prize.

By Adrian Medina





# Run To Cambria Pines Lodge (cont.)





# Ventura County Corvette Club

## 70th Corvette Birthday party

On July 15–16, Corvettes of Bakersfield was invited, along with other clubs, to the Ventura County Corvette Club's 70th Corvette birthday celebration being held at the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor Resort. Several COB members took the opportunity to leave the heat of Bakersfield by making it a long weekend; some spending more than four days in cool Ventura. Bill and Janice Dean are two such members who happen to own a yacht in Ventura Harbor. They graciously invited us COB members to spend Saturday morning on the yacht with mimosas and pastry snacks til the time came to have lunch at Brophy Brothers restaurant on Ventura Beach.

After a delicious lunch at Brophy Brothers, we cavorted along Ventura Harbor and enjoyed some ice cream, or chocolate candies or whatever and eventually went to our rooms to rest till it was time for the dinner party at the resort.

What a great time we had mingling with other club's members where we made fast friends and lasting memories with dinner, dancing and many, many raffle prizes.

The next day, we had a couple of runs leaving the resort with one going to Santa Barbara and the curvy mountain roads around the city and the other going to Ojai to Boccali's Italian Restaurant. On the way to the restaurant we stopped at Lake Casitas for a photo op. We had 21 cars and had a great time posing for the photos where people camping at the lake would come over and take pictures of all the Vettes. It was a hot 95° in Ojai but the wind was blowing and helped keep us cool. The food and service at Boccali's was spectacular.

We would like to thank Jim Carr, President of VCCC, and the whole event committee and club members for graciously hosting the celebration. We look forward to seeing our new friends again.

By Adrian Medina

For many more photos and videos, click on our Flickr page:

<https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720309832334>





# Ventura County Corvette Club

## 70th Corvette Birthday party (cont.)





# Virtual Honor Flight Parade to Brookdale Senior Center

Corvettes of Bakersfield got a last minute invitation (24 hours) to participate in a drive-by parade on August 9 through the Brookdale Senior Living Center to honor 11 Korean war veterans. These Korean war veterans were honored with a parade and virtual Honor Flight as a result of being unable to make the Honor Flight trip to the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC.

10 Corvettes assembled along with other military vehicles, Jeeps and assorted cars at Calloway and Stockdale hiways and made the short trip to Brookdale escorted by two of Bakersfield's finest on motorcycles. Riding along with us atop of Diane's C7 convertible was the beautiful Mrs. Bakersfield, Peggy Rivera.

After the parade ended, we were all ushered into the facility to view a video of the Korean War Memorial. California State Assemblyman Vince Fong was there as well as representatives for Kevin McCarthy and other Bakersfield officials to honor the veterans with certificates, flags and other memorabilia. A very emotional conclusion was held when all the veterans in the house lined up in front of the Korean War veterans and gave them a hearty salute.

By Adrian Medina

Click on link for more photos on our Flickr page of this event:

<https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720310434173>



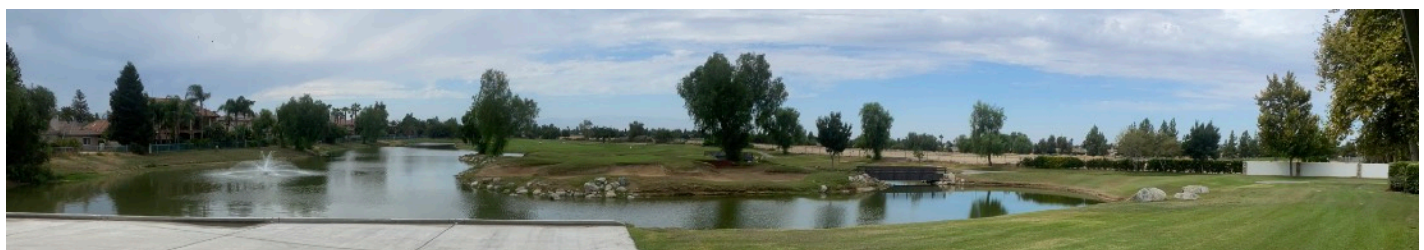
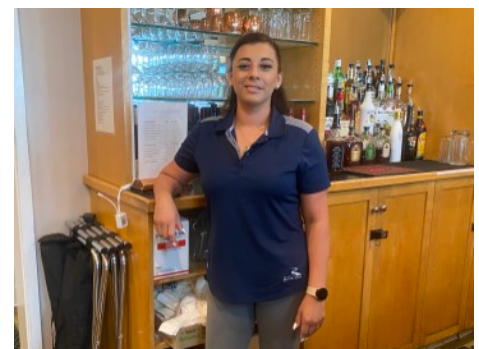


# Corvette Owners Breakfast At Riverlakes Links

We had a nice turn out today for our first in 3 years 'Corvettes & Coffee' at the Riverlakes Links club house. The breakfast was yummy and friendship was outstanding (as always). The staff was also very appreciative of our return which was originally halted as a result of Covid mandates. They even went out and took photos of all the Vettes.

Hopefully for those that didn't make it this time, we will see you at our future Corvettes & Coffee. It will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:30 am. You do not have to be a club member to attend. Remember, if you love Corvettes we are friends and if you own a Corvette we are family.

By Danny Ellison





# Dinner at Tahoe Joe's

I would like to thank Liz for an excellent job of coordinating tonight's dinner at Tahoe Joe's and thank those that came out to enjoy the evening with fellow club members. We had a very nice dinner with 15 club members and one guest. The food was excellent and the service was great. For those that were not able to attend, you missed a great evening and hope you can make it the next time.

By Danny Ellison





# Rod and Bev Hayden's First car

## THE BLACK 1937 DESOTO SEDAN By Rod and Bev Hayden

Once upon a very long time ago, High School sweethearts Rod and Bev Hayden got married while Rod was in boot camp at Fort Ord. Soon Rod was assigned to a Nike-Herc Base in Seattle Washington and Bev joined him there. They had a little apartment on Queen Ann Hill...life was good. Rod rode to the base with buddies and Bev took the bus downtown to her job at a five & dime store.

Soon it became apparent that life would be better with a car so Rod went shopping. When he picked Bev up after work, he had to walk her past "IT" three times before he had the nerve to tell her that the 1937 black DeSoto Sedan was theirs. Bev said "surely you jest"... "nope" Rod says, "that's the one". This twenty three year old car, older than the Mr. and Mrs., looked, at the very least, like a mafia car and at the most, a hearse. There was enough room between the front seat and the back seat to set up a card table and it was fully loaded with *Dyna Flow*? The best part was it had a large hood ornament of the Flying Mermaid sticking out in front.

Many adventures in the mafia car followed; like having it die trying to drive up Queen Ann Hill and starting to roll backwards with some of Bev's co-workers on board. In all fairness Queen Ann Hill was very steep and the trolleys used an underground counter balance to make the grade. Needless to say, Bev's friends from work went back to riding the bus. One winter morning it snowed and as this couple started down the hill to church, the very heavy car became a toboggan and off they went. Rod stopped the mafia car by running into the curb and dragging along next to the curb.



As the conflict between East and West Germany escalated and the Berlin Wall was going up Rod received orders to go to Germany. With a thirty day leave Rod and Bev packed all their earthly belongings in the car including an ironing board that fit in the back seat with room to spare. Off the couple headed to California with their little Pekinese dog, Ming Toy.

That wonderful ugly car got them home without a hitch and because it was so big inside they slept comfortably beside the road one night. I wish I had been kinder about how I felt about that big black beast and now I look back with fondness. Rod asks Bev to this day what she did with all the money when she sold it. Says Bev, "My folks probably paid someone to get it off the property".

Recently when Rod refurbished his golf cart, our good friend and fellow COB member, Lyle Joslin, found us a 1937 DeSoto hood ornament that now sits, for the entire world to see, atop the roof of the golf cart.



# COB and Palm Spring Members Attend Indy 500 Race!

By Diane Wallace

It was a bucket list trip! Thanks to Carol Kurtis, of Kurtis Kraft automobiles, who were winners of multiple Indy races in their early roadsters, Diane and Leroy Wallace and two lucky Palm Springs Corvette Club winners of the Gambler's Classic silent auction attended the 2023 Indy 500 race. Both couples bought bronze passes, gaining early entry to the garage area and pits days before the actual race. Diane followed her favorite driver, Tony Kanaan #66 and LeRoy searched the history of Bill Vukovich, his favorite racer. Carolyn found AJ Foyt's team members that remembered her uncle, who was AJ's main mechanic in her youthful days!

Both couples had a blast sitting in the prime Kurtis seats near the starting line by the pagoda and pit lane!



The roar, the speed, the thrills, and the traditions were fabulous to experience in person. With over 300,000 people in attendance, it was organized, but crazy fun! The pace cars were Corvette C8s! Diane and LeRoy were able to see them all up close days before the race and the trophy too! A visit to the Indianapolis 500 Museum showcases the history of the race, the cars, the winners, and the runners-up! Several Kurtis cars are on display, making our visit even more special. Being from Bakersfield, we also have to have a shout out to Rick Mears and his fabulous contributions to racing at the Indy! It was the trip of a lifetime and highly recommended to any car lover.

To read more about Frank Kurtis and his Indy Roadster and the Bill Vukovich history and connection to the California Central Valley click on these links:

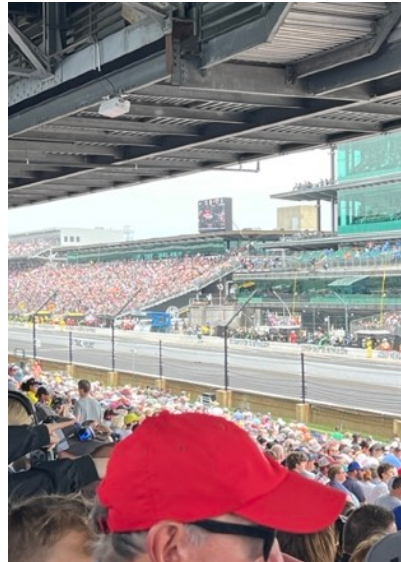
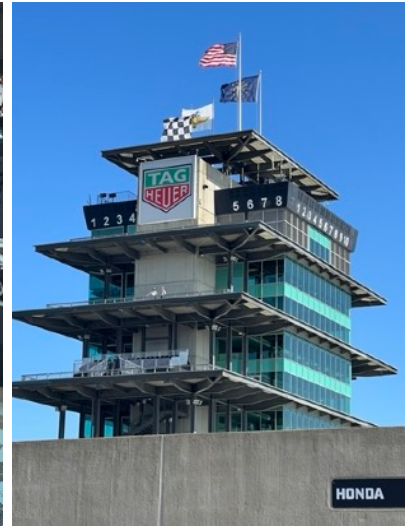
<https://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com/search?keywords=Kurtis%20kraft>

<https://www.undiscoveredclassics.com/forgotten-fiberglass/frank-kurtis-and-kurtis-kraft-postwar-american-coachbuilding-royalty-car-life-december-1961/>

To read more about the Indy 500: <https://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com/events/indy500>



# COB and Palm Spring Members Attend Indy 500 Race! (Cont.)





# BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR  
WONDERFUL COB MEMBERS  
MAY ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE



## SEPTEMBER

Ennis, Tony	6
Wallace, LeRoy	6
Stacey, Linda	9
Casey, Marvin	19
Garza, Traci	25
DeVries, Stacy	27
White, Jim	28
Combs, Linda	29

## OCTOBER

McFadden, Curtis	5
Joslin, Teresa	14
Slauson, Betsy	27
Miller, Kim	28
Antak, Brian	29
Ketcherside, Bruce	30

## NOVEMBER

Frye, Dale	2
Garza, Chevy	4
Gallego, Henry	8
Young, Penny	10
Mitchell, Melanie	11
Flaherty, Jon	18

## DECEMBER

Wright, Jan	7
Joslin, Butch	14
Rouw, Michael	15
Medina, Christine	24
Chambers, Jim	26
Pucilowski, Tina	28
Ellison, Donna	29
Flaherty, Maryann	31



# Sponsors



## PLATINUM SPONSOR



<http://buttonwillowraceway.com/>



<https://www.valleystrong.com/>



## GOLD SPONSOR



<https://www.stonechevybuickgmc.com/>



BAKERSFIELD  
HYUNDAI

<https://www.bakersfieldhyundai.com/>



HALL  
AMBULANCE

<https://hallamb.com/>



Three-Way  
CHEVROLET

<https://www.3waychevrolet.com/>



## CHROME SPONSOR



<https://corvettemike.com/>

## RAFFLE SPONSORS



<https://www.clubglove.com/>



<https://www.zip-corvette.com/>



<https://vidmem.com/>



<https://www.corvettepacific.com/>



<https://www.oreillyauto.com/>



<https://www.traderjoes.com/>



LAUGHLIN RANCH

GOLF CLUB  
ESTABLISHED IN 2004

<https://www.laughlinranch.com/>





# PARTING SHOTS



What a great group! Both shots are taken at the Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria, California. A beautiful place to stay and visit.

