

CORVETTES OF BAKERSFIELD

2025 Summer Edition



LeRoy and Diane Wallace looking good at Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway

In This Issue:

The Presidents Message

A tale of Three Corvettes

Mitch's Magazine Article

COB Bar-B-Que at Gallego's

Car Shows

**Keen/Pacifica Parts/ Portrait of a Warrior
Run to Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway**

Run to Ragged Point

Westchester 4th of July Parade

Lunch at Luigi's

Prescott, Arizona Run

And so much more...

Summer Fun!!!

Well, with summer temperatures fading away quickly and cool climes just around the corner, we will recap the many great events we had in these past few months. Of course we had a hiatus of events during the July and August months due to vacationing members and Bakersfield's hot, hot temperatures. Nonetheless, we did our best to remain busy and keep contact with our fellow COB members. We've had many new members join us and, sadly, quite a few that have left us by not renewing their membership. Also, more sadly, we've had members that have passed on but will always be fondly remembered.

By Adrian Medina



Hello everyone! Fall is finally here. School is back in session and many of us have returned from recent travels. Now it is time for the holidays! Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Years...just listing them all is exhausting. However we choose to acknowledge them, may it be done safely and with family.

Our Corvettes of Bakersfield family has been very active the past few months. The club runs, near and far, have provided new scenery and new friendships for us to enjoy. We look forward to continuing this trend. Most of the time, these events don't happen without planning. The board of directors is always looking for input and assistance with our activities. If you have an idea, please share it.

As we cross over into the new year, we are anxious to experience Gambler's Classic 2026. A lot of work has gone into this event so far and we look forward to sharing it with other Corvette owners in the western states. Please join us in Laughlin, NV in April 2026 or help us behind the scenes during the next six months of preparation.

We also need to plan to refresh our board of directors. The current board, for the most part, has been in place for two years. It might be time for some fresh blood. I've been hearing some rumblings in the background, which is natural, but if you want something done differently, step up and/or speak up and take some action. Elections are just a few months away.

Always stay safe and enjoy your Corvettes to the max!

Kim Miller/Corvettes of Bakersfield - President





REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Get Ready for Gambler's Classic 2026 – It's Going to Be a Blast!

We've packed this year's Gambler's Classic with new twists, exciting traditions, and plenty of Corvette fun. Here's what you can look forward to:

Thursday Night – Ice Cream Social!

Who doesn't love ice cream? This year, our traditional Meet & Greet gets a sweet upgrade! After dinner at your favorite spot, join us for a fun-filled ice cream social. Pick your favorite flavors, pile on the toppings, and yes—we've even got sugar-free options.

Corvette Glow Show Parade

But that's just the beginning... For the first time ever, we're lighting up the night with a Corvette Glow Show! Imagine Corvettes glowing with dazzling colors, like a rolling parade straight out of Disneyland. Whether you join in with your glowing ride or just sit back and enjoy the show, it's an experience you won't forget. And who knows—there may even be an award for the crowd's favorite!

Friday Morning – Route 66 Fun Run to Kingman, AZ

We're hitting the road to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of Route 66** with a special fun run. In partnership with the Kingman Office of Tourism, this adventure will let you soak in history and highway nostalgia. Stay tuned for more details!

Friday Night – 25th Celebration

This year marks our **25th Gambler's Classic**, and we're celebrating in style. Enjoy a delicious dinner, bid fast and often at our **Silent Auction** (leave some space in your Corvette for the treasures you'll win!), and then dance the night away. We'll wrap it all up with club group photos to capture the memories.

Saturday – Car Show & More!

Rise and shine—it's showtime! Get your Corvette polished to perfection (our professional car wash detailer will be back this year). We've updated the judging categories based on your feedback, including a brand-new **Modified/Custom Corvette** category.

Saturday Afternoon – Poker Run

After the show, the fun continues with our Poker Run. Remember: **extra poker hands must be purchased during online registration**—they won't be available at the event. Saturday night, we'll crown our winners!

Participation Award

Don't forget—the club with the most entries takes home bragging rights AND a donation to their favorite 501(c)(3) charity.

As you can see, we have a lot going on at the event, but we also have **fun** putting it on. COB Members, please come to our meetings to learn more about helping. I know it's 6 months away, but it will be here before you know it, and we have a lot to do.

By Kim Miller, President

A TALE OF THREE CORVETTES THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

BY CLIFF BATTENFIELD

I was 16 in 1966 when my love affair first started with “The Corvette”. My neighbor across the alley behind my house had just purchased a 1958 Corvette convertible. It was a British racing green color and was the most beautiful automobile, I thought, I had ever seen. The double headlights, the rounded back fenders with the contoured molded-in tail lights. The stick shift, the gorgeous black bucket seats; accented with chrome, of course. The American five spoke mags, and with the perfect stance. In a few words: I was sold... hook, line, and sinker right then and there. I thought to myself someday I am going to have one of those. Just another addition to a long bucket list.

Some years later I had the chance to check out a friend's 69. I just loved it. Everything about it was ‘TUFF’. With that big swooping front dash, large round gauges, and the rest of that gorgeously sculptured interior. The chrome front and back bumpers. The slight tail flip with round tail lights, and bottom chromed tail pipe tips. That molded ass end. The stock rally wheels with the 8” chromed beauty rims with center hats, and the four vertical shark like side air vents. Perfecto! Aesthetically pleasing to say the least. The 427 HP power plant was a killer with those large heads that almost touch the inner fender wheel well. It was all motor in the engine bay. Chromed valve cover and, of course, the monster sound trumpeting from a set of Cyclone headers. Outstanding, but more over was the revolutionary “coke bottle” look. Oh My God! That Adonis shape. So aerodynamic, so sleek, so contoured, so innovative, so controlled... it was PERFECT! I thought this car must have been made in heaven. Inspired by God Himself. More confirmation burnt into my brain of how awesome these cars really are. What styling!! What engineering!! What vision!! Thank you, Frank Winchell, Bill Mitchell and Zora Arkus-Duntov. And did I mention the coolest of names... ‘The Sting Ray’? Wow! Can you say “Home Run”! Once again, in back of the ole brain, “Oh! I must have one of these animals”. Now, it's becoming a common theme, don't you think? Just a matter of time and moola.



A TALE OF THREE CORVETTES THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

The Good

Enter the 2010 C6 base model Corvette. Purchased from my neighbor and a *Corvettes of Bakersfield* member, Eddie Contreras, for a price not disclosed at this time. This Vette was given to him as a gift from his brother as a retirement gift. Nice brother, don't you think? It was living in Eddies garage enticing me every time I would pass by. It was drawing me in like the Sirens in 'Homers Odyssey'. The idea of actually possessing this gorgeous machine was overwhelming. I could not resist. The temptation was too strong, and I was too weak. I was the moth, it was the flame. After much persistence he decided to sell it to me. He wanted a C7, anyway, in a silver-grey color to match his silver-grey pick-up. The sale was really inevitable. A win, win for both parties. Crystal Red Metallic in color with an all-black interior. A very sweet color combo. It had been wet sanded, buffed, clayed, waxed, and ceramic coated to perfection. Talk about slick. All windows had been tinted dark. A new Pioneer touch screen kick ass stereo system inhabited the dash, two Fosgate amps with 8" Kicker Punch speakers. Does anyone have any ear plugs for sale?



A stock LS3 motor with a larger air intake for better breathing and performance had been installed. 430 HP, I believe. An added ZO6 exhaust system with added ground effects top and bottom...painted to match the spoiler. And, of course, the Chevy ZO6 black wheels to make that red color really pops. An aftermarket rear spoiler in a black color was needed; so a quick change was done. Aw, much better! Last but not least, the addition of two wide gloss black competition stripes by 3M...across the front hood, over the top, and over the deck lid. What makes this Vette outstanding is that it is really a cool looking customer... fun to drive, and such a smooth ride. With the extra wide tires, the cornering is nice and tight. Great stance...very classy and very good!

A TALE OF THREE CORVETTES THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

The Bad

Submitted for your approval is this 2008 C6 white Corvette with an orange wrap. This amazing vehicle was the property of Jack and Yolanda Atkinson who lived just south of San Francisco as the crow flies. This Vette was originally from Ontario California and had only 6574 miles on it when it became “the YoJack”. A move to Tehachapi in 2018 ensued. Apparently, this corvette loves the mountains. This car is very well known in the Bay Area as well as in Tehachapi, and all around Bakersfield. It has been on so many trips, rallies, and vacations. A plethora of adventures, as per Yolonda. I am sure that most of the members in The Corvettes of Bakersfield know this car. With that being said, it is an honor and a privilege to be the new owner and driver of this incredible machine. Way too many custom additions to be listed here on this base model such as the wide-body fenders and massive rear spoiler designed and fabricated by Jack himself. It is safe to say that it is not really a base C6 model anymore. From front to tail, it is a custom masterpiece. Just about all options were addressed. Even the inside has some nice custom tidbits. It should be added that all the extra work and improvements performed on this Vette have been done correctly and with the utmost care to Jack’s satisfaction. Jack and Yolanda paid special attention to every detail that was being considered and, therefore, properly addressed.



No cheesy effects here. Nothing left to do now except adding a CB for communication with friends and the “people of the road”. To change its famous look, and to make more of a “ME” car, the #83 from both side doors and rear panel has been removed; as well as all the ‘Racing Team YoJack’ sign vinyl. The wrap is still intact. And yes, the outrageous and iconic carbon fiber rear spoiler still resides on the rear deck, which makes it still recognizable from the past. It is another American fun sports car. It is truly an outstanding and neat automobile. And, “OH, what A LOOKER”. One unique item to see is the saying printed on both bottom rocker panels: “Yea, it’s good to be bad”. Hence the Bad.

A TALE OF THREE CORVETTES THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

The Beautiful

Obviously, since I had always been enamored with Corvettes, it had only made perfect sense, and, of course, an inevitable event that at some point in time I would have one. I decided to buy one after college. A college graduation gift to myself, as it were. Mentioned previously, I was on a mission from God to find that perfect Corvette...a C3. After a long look around town (way before the internet), which, by the way, took me about a year (from 1977 to 1978) to find, I found "THE ONE". A 1969 Corvette Sting Ray convertible. Or, as they are commonly known, a roadster, as we all know. It had everything I was looking for and more. A special order for that year, come to find out. IT WAS PERFECT! IT WAS BEAUTIFUL! IT WAS GOING TO BE MINE! I couldn't believe I had run across this gem. I almost had a coronary right then and there. What a find! What a lucky find! It was just sitting there with its owner at Benton Park. A 'For Sale' sign in that gorgeous front window. An event horizon for sure. After talking to the owner and some investigation, it turned out that I am the third owner of this vehicle. Some of the details: it had the purist of that classical look. Chevrolet 8000 acrylic enamel white paint with a bright and bold red interior. Hard top to match and a black soft top. A 350 cubic inch engine, 350 horsepower, four bolt main, low profile aftermarket air cleaner, Mickey Thompson finned aluminum valve covers, Hooker Headers, 8-inch rally wheels with Goodrich TA's, factory AC and a Borg Warner rock crusher four speed with Hurst linkage. Some years later, I added an 8 ball to the shifter. Oh, how 'RETRO'! Power steering, tilt and telescopic steering wheel, power windows, AM FM radio, Flow Master mufflers for that consummate nasty rumble, and a perfect untouched body. The glass was in excellent condition with, believe it or not, zero stress cracks. It was just PERFECT! It was just BEAUTIFUL! It had just become MINE! The award-winning price you might ask?? \$3,500! What a glorious deal! And who says there is no God. I am truly blessed and a very happy 'Vette camper'.

Some parting words:

"Ride in class, wrap your ass in fiberglass".

"Do it in a Vette, if you can...."

By Cliff Battenfield

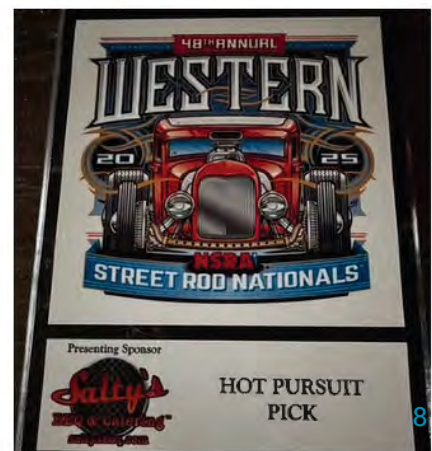
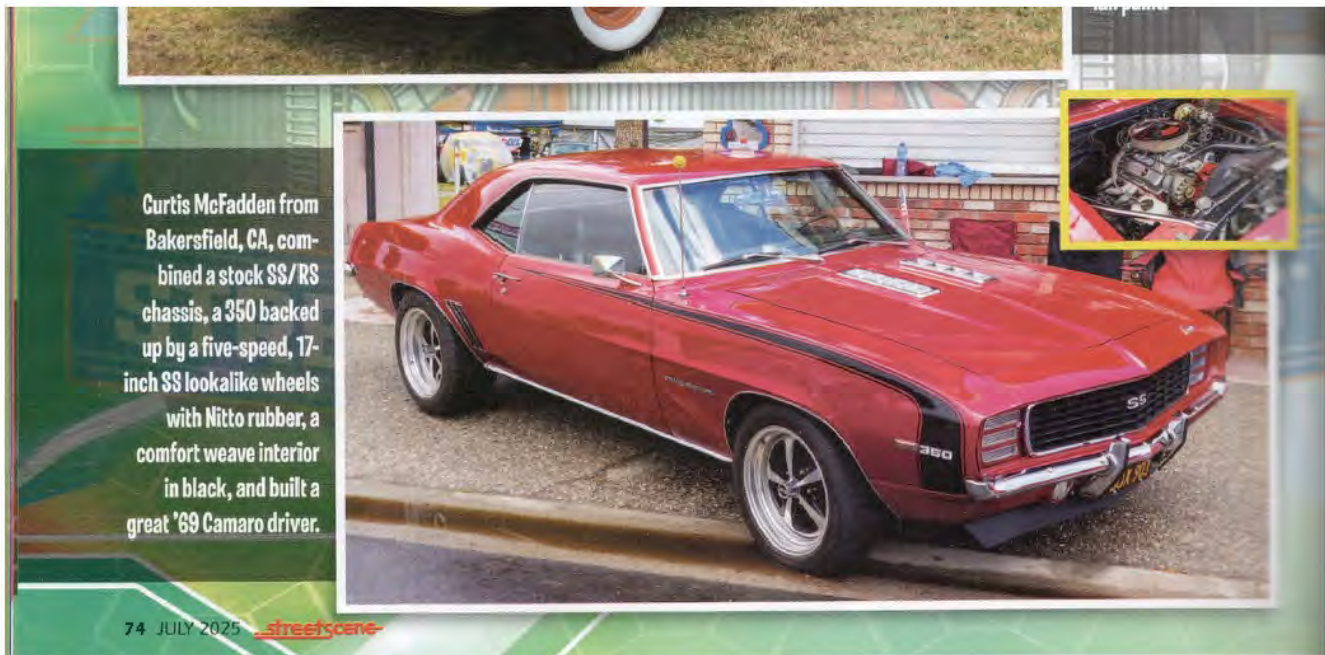


On the rainy weekend of April 25, 26 & 27, COB members Mitch Townsend and Curtis McFadden entered the NSRA (National Street Rod Association) car show being held at the Kern County Fairgrounds. Mitch was the lucky recipient of a four page centerfold spread of the July, 2025 issue of Street Scene Magazine. Louis Mayall was the author and photographer of this beautiful article.

Curtis' 1969 Camaro Super Sport/Rally Sport was also featured in the same magazine. Curtis won the 'Hot Pursuit Pick' from CHP Officer Yeza who liked the color and body style of the 1969 Camaro. Curtis requested that the CHP officer handcuff him and throw him in the back seat of his car for a photo but the officer thought better of the request.

Congratulations Men!!

By Adrian Medina



Mitch's Sports Car



Like the most long running cars, the Corvette seems to be a hate it or love it ride. Of course, I love all cars and various members of the NSRA staff have had or currently drive what Chevrolet refers to as "America's Sports Car." The C3 Corvette was produced for over 14 years (1968 to 1982) and changed quite a bit, but none of them ever looked as cool as Mitch Townsend's '72 wide-body Chevy Corvette out of Bakersfield, California. Mitch is a retired oil field worker who finds already-built cars that fit the bill and then does what he thinks they need to be perfect. This '72 came out of Paso Robles, California and that's about all I know about its origins (I searched the internet with no result) and now Mitch has made the already unique Vette his own.

The Corvette is meant to be a sports car, and this one has been modified to keep on outperforming other cars right into the 21st Century. The front suspension is a Van Steel coilover conversion with Wilwood brakes, Van Steel tubular control arms, QA1 coilovers, an extra-large Van Steel antiroll bar, and Borgeson power steering. The rear suspension is the detail that drew me in. The regular Corvette rear suspension has been updated with a Shark Bite inboard coilover conversion that eliminates the leaf spring

Feature design by Paul Sloup
Article & photography by Louis Mayall

using cantilevered coilovers, tubular control arms, a C4 center pumpkin with posi, and Wilwood discs actuated by a Wilwood power master cylinder. The stock snail block has been replaced with a built 406ci SBC running Holley Sniper EFI, MSD ignition, headers that run right into a side pipe (because it is a Corvette) and is backed up with a built 700R4 overdrive automatic.

The C3 Corvette (aka the "Mako Shark") was a styling masterpiece or nightmare depending on your take on the car. The long narrow factory sports car followed the design ethic of its time with long and narrow cars having



Article and Photography by Louis Mayall



a lower center of gravity (part of why both an early Ferrari and a VW Bus are oddly satisfying on a twisty road). Mitch's '72 takes that design ethic and adds a wide body kit and a set of 18-inch Rocket wheels to make it look bitchin'. The rest of the body is surprisingly stock with factory brightwork, factory grille, and factory fenders. Changes include a competition gas filler, custom side vents I've never seen, bumper skirts, and C-6 Corvette mirrors. The lipstick red paint is perfectly contrasted by a black leather interior with blue stitching. The interior features Dakota Digital gauges in a Dakota Digital inset, blue LED lighting, a leather-covered dash, a tilt column, and a Jensen Bluetooth stereo with a backup camera.

I am a huge fan of buying an already built car and either rebuilding it or tuning it to your liking. First off, it's a great way to get into rodding if you have some people to help you and every experienced rodder knows you can save a lot of money buying all the parts put together. The other thing is you get to get out and drive that jolopy. That's how you really know what must change to make a rod work for you. Obviously, I'd love to be cruising in Mitch's '72 and may have changed different things, but what matters is that Mitch is out there having a great time in his Vette. *LM*



On May 28, 2025, Corvettes of Bakersfield lost a beloved member and past president of our club. Larry Young was heartbroken but stoic upon losing his effervescent wife, Penny, almost 4 months earlier in February.

Larry grew up in Oregon and graduated from Southern Oregon University where he met Penny. After serving in the National Guard, he married Penny in 1964. They moved to Portland Oregon where he worked for Standard Oil for 10 years. Both his son and daughter were born in Portland. In 1972 He moved to Southern California where he worked for Newhall refinery. In 1979, he moved to Bakersfield working for Nevada Refining Company and subsequently worked for San Joaquin Refinery.



Larry loved collecting and restoring his cars. He restored around five different Sunbeam Tigers. For 59 years, he owned a beautiful 1965 Ford Sunbeam Tiger which he used at rallies with Penny doing the navigation. What a team!



In 2014, Larry & Penny traveled to Bowling Green, Kentucky and picked up their custom ordered Lime Rock Green C7 Corvette at the National Corvette Museum.

My wife, Christine, and I had the good fortune of meeting him and his shiny new Corvette while waiting in line at the Costco gas pumps. Christine got one of our cards and went over to talk to him about joining the club which he enthusiastically agreed to do. He was a great asset to the Corvettes of Bakersfield.

Larry's ashes were buried alongside Penny on September 20 in Kauai, Hawaii, where his son Zachary resides among 4 acres. His daughter, Andrea Ames, a Bakersfield school teacher, and two of four grandchildren (2 each) were at his side when he passed peacefully.

Thank you, Andrea for the beautiful family photos and for sharing your dad with us.

By Adrian Medina & Andrea Ames



MOPARS of Bakersfield put on a 'HOT' The American Car Show at the Crest Bar and Grill RV park on May 10th with proceeds benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Kern County. Temperatures were 100° today, but the setting was beautiful as well as all the beautiful cars in the show.

Corvettes of Bakersfield made a showing with four beautiful Corvettes and their members, Ed & Linda Combs, Jim Chambers, Adrian & Christine Medina and Bill Dean. Many other COB members came to visit with Steve Taylor doing a drive-by in his gorgeous '64 Stingray and Diane and LeRoy walking around doing PR work and signing people up for the upcoming Kevin Harvick Raceway Corvette parade.

We had a great time in spite of the miserable heat and we look forward to our next event.

By Adrian Medina



Kim and Virgil Miller spend many weeks in their second home in Idaho during the hot Bakersfield summer. Here they attend the "Lost in the 50's Car Show" in Sandpoint, ID on May 15-17:

I am attending the Lost in the 50's Car Show in Sandpoint Idaho. Beautiful weather! Of course I am partial to Corvettes, but there are a lot of classic cars here and a lot of people. The show is similar to the Streets of Bakersfield show but much larger. We're eating delicious burgers at the 1908 Saloon overlooking a portion of Lake Pend Oreille. What a great way to start the summer!!

By Kim Miller



COB Bar-B-Que at the Gallego's

We just got home from having a marvelous time at the Corvettes of Bakersfield potluck barbecue being held on the beautiful grounds of club members Henry and Kathy Gallego. It was a joy to see some long-time members we have not seen for a *long time* as well as new potential members. On this day, May 18th, it was beautiful and clear at 79° but slightly windy. At one point we had a gust that I swear was about 60 to 70 miles an hour, but it was quick and over with in no time.

The food was superb. The main cook, Mitch Townsend, knows his meats and did an outstanding job cooking the tri-tip and chicken as well as his famous chili beans. We had an awesome spread of potato salad, macaroni salad, fruit salad and all sorts of casseroles brought in by the excellent cooks in our club.

Towards the end of the day a few left-over attendees sat around and just talked about how we came to love the club and join it. We enjoyed having our members-to-be, Ernie and Joanna, interview us as to why we all joined the club. It was wonderful to hear everybody's story and we all came to the conclusion that we are like an extended family.

We'd like to thank everyone who attended and brought some delicious food to eat. We had a great time and are looking forward to our next gathering.

By Adrian Medina







FRAZIER PARK CAR SHOW

What a fine day we had today at the Ridge Route Run Car Show in Frazier Park. Whereas, it was 89° in Bakersfield, we were enjoying 69° breezy weather up in the mountains where we saw a ton of visitors and some beautiful vehicles in a nice mountain setting. Six Corvettes of Bakersfield Corvettes caravanned up the hill to participate in the car show where we relaxed and had some delicious pizza for lunch. After lunch, we enjoyed some ice cream drumsticks while leisurely sitting under some shady pine trees. We talked to some fun people from Frazier Park and generally had a great time.

At the end of the show, we took the long way home through the back roads from Pine Mountain club through Mil Potero Highway to highway 166. It was a spirited drive with beautiful scenery which, unfortunately, we did not stop to appreciate since we were driving so fast.

By Adrian Medina





On Saturday, May 31st, the day was a miserable 106° plus...the hottest day of the Bakersfield summer, so far. All of last week was in the mid 90s, but it chose to be miserably hot on our big day. We had 49 cars out of the 90 or so that signed up to attend our Keen Parts and Corvette Pacifica Parts/Portrait of a Warrior Gallery Run to Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway Park. We had Corvettes coming from as far away as San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Ventura, and who knows where else. These were brave folks who weathered our hot temperatures and enjoyed the good food and Corvette camaraderie that Corvettes of Bakersfield had to offer.

Everyone enthusiastically enjoyed their meal at our staging point at Salty's Barbecue and Catering on White Lane. After a meal and a meeting, Jeff Salters ushered us out of the parking lot into the waiting wheels of the six Bakersfield city police motor units who cleared opposing traffic on our way to the raceway park. I'm sure it was an awesome sight for the inconvenienced motorists who had to stop at intersections and see us whiz by under police escort.

After waiting three hours in the sweltering heat, we proceeded to go through the tunnel onto the track. Where we made an impressive parade of Corvettes, three abreast, rolling around the track.

When we stopped in front of the grandstands, we paid homage to 27 Kern County military men who were killed in action since 9-11. Their portraits, which were presented to the audience in a solemn ceremony, hang in the walls of the beautiful Portraits of a Warrior Gallery at 1925 Eye St.; a must see destination for locals and visitors to Bakersfield.

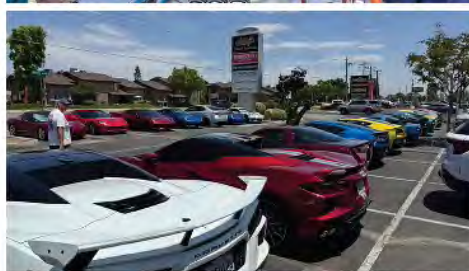
Following the parade and opening ceremonies, we all got to enjoy some NASCAR racing, compliments of [keenparts.com](<http://keenparts.com>) and [[corvettepacific.com](https://www.corvettepacific.com)](<https://www.corvettepacific.com>). The race drivers included champion and track owner, Kevin Harvick, and his son, Keelan racing each other. It was a thrilling race and towards the end, Keelan, a very young 12 year-old, won the race.

Thank you to our event sponsors, Salty's Barbecue, Keen Corvette Parts, and Corvette Pacifica Parts for an exciting day.

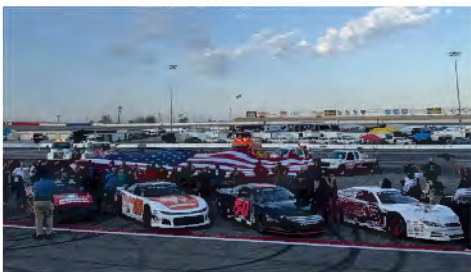
Photo Credits: Adrian, Diane, Virgil, Martin & Liz

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

[<https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720326575134>]



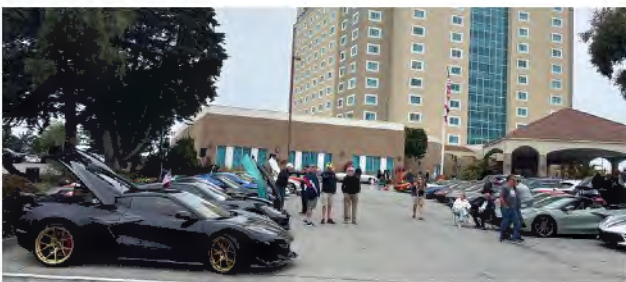




The Corvettes of Bakersfield was invited to participate in an All Corvette Car Show in Monterey, CA by the Monterey Peninsula Corvette Club. The MPCC hosted a two day car show event on June 6th and 7th. Their car show included, on Friday: a poker run, a cruise to Big Sur, a show and shine at Carmel Valley Park With a catered barbecue lunch and parade laps at Laguna Seca. On Saturday they held a judged show and shine, a cruise to Cannery Row, a 17 mile Drive in Carmel and a Grand Awards Dinner finale.

Congratulations to the Espitia/Zaninovich team and the Miller's for winning Awards of Excellence in their classes.

By Adrian Medina



BRUNCH of CORVETTES at LUIGI'S

On Saturday, August 16, Corvettes of Bakersfield had an excellent brunch at Luigi's Restaurant and Delicatessen on 725 E. 19th St. We had a limited seating of 20 members however only 12 members out of 16 signees showed up. Nonetheless, we had a great time with some excellent Italian food.

We showed up at 10:30 AM waiting for the restaurant to open up at 11:00. Already, quite a line had been forming and the restaurant filled up very quickly. It just shows how popular this place is and how great the food is. They served a variety of sandwiches, pastas and salad dishes and much more. Melanie, our waitress, did a great job taking care of us as well as the rest of the staff in keeping our glasses filled.

After we finished our meal, a few of us lingered on just to converse for what seemed to be an hour. We then started ordering beers and drinks and sat for a couple more hours. We didn't leave the restaurant until after 3:00 PM. We had a great time making new friends as we sat and talked.

By Adrian Medina/Photos by Donnie Schwerdelfager, Diane Wallace, Liz Zaninovich and Linda Stacey



On Friday, June 20, 11 COB Corvettes and happy drivers assembled at the Veterans Memorial parking lot in Cambria with other Corvette clubs from the coastal area for a run to Ragged Point; about 23 miles north of Cambria on Highway 1. We had a total of almost 40 Corvettes making the awesome procession towards the 'Gateway to Big Sur'. Quite a few of them were beautiful vintage Corvettes. Once we reached the Ragged Point Lodge, we all parked on the lawn and surrounding parking spaces and had a fantastic lunch. We made a lot of friends and met a lot of super nice people on this trip. It's always delightful to leave the heat of Bakersfield for 60° weather. It was actually a bit cold and blustery out in the open areas.

After our lunch and some great conversation, we broke up and went our own way and enjoyed the scenery all along the coast. The next day, Saturday, most of the group had planned to meet in Pismo Beach for a short Cars and Coffee gathering before they drove to the Norgrove Railway in Arroyo Grande. This 3 mile private railroad consists of a small collection of narrow gauge restored steam locomotives traveling through the rolling hills and fields of the Norgrove Gardens Vineyard. This is a must see destination for train enthusiasts.

By Adrian Medina

For more photos, click on our Flickr page link: <https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720327025022>



On Saturday, June 21, the day after the Ragged Point Run, COB members spent the night at the coast and on the following morning, a friendly gathering of Corvettes owners enjoyed donuts and camaraderie. About two dozen Corvettes and a Porsche followed Peter's antique firetruck to Norgrove Gardens Winery Arroyo Grande where Peter Nott and his train engineer opened the shop and locomotive barn for everyone to tour!

Peter explained his family history and life journey leading him to build his train route climbing and winding through his vineyard. The group then climbed aboard the train and began an ascent rolling along through beautiful citrus trees and grape vines. Peter even recreated the famous Tehachapi Loop to navigate around and up a hill leading to a stationary caboose where weddings and special events take place overlooking even more gorgeous vineyards. After a short break and photo op at the caboose, our train journey continued on past an electrical depot and back to the starting point. At this point, the Corvettes of Bakersfield group headed to The Cantina for lunch, while others stayed to enjoy some wine tasting.

It was an enjoyable day. Thanks to Diane Wheeler-Wallace for the wonderful narrative, And Harold for an enjoyable weekend.

By Liz Zaninovich



On Friday, June 20, eleven Corvettes with Corvettes of Bakersfield members attended various Central Coast Corvette club's run to Ragged Point, located 23 miles north of Cambria. Today, while several of our members decided to go to the Arroyo Grande Norgrove Railway Exhibition and ride, Christine and I decided to go to the Ventura County Corvette Club's celebration of the Corvette's birthday benefitting the Ventura Police Department K9 unit. We arrived early and were joined by fellow COB members, Ron and Denise, who were already settled-in in their beautiful C6 when an approximately 20 Corvettes show up from the Ventura County Corvette club. It was a beautiful parade of Corvettes rolling in all at once. They had just returned from a short cruise to the (Junipero) Serra's Cross located in a hill overlooking the city of Ventura.

Once they settled in. We were treated to an outpouring of Corvette camaraderie from the members of the VCCC. We had a great time and we were entertained by the Ventura Police Department K9 unit consisting of three dogs and their Officer handlers. These officers work around the clock, and the dogs are specialized to either handle drugs or explosives and firearms.

The event was also sponsored by Lester Family Cellars which provided some excellent wine tasting opportunities and sales of their delicious wines.

With some stiff competition, I was fortunate to win first place in the show competition judged by the officers themselves. No doubt, my patriotic engine display was a great advantage at the show. Chris and I had such a fantastic day in the beautiful town of Ventura that we would like to do this again next year.

By Adrian Medina

For more photos, click on our Flickr page link: <https://www.flickr.com/.../corve.../albums/72177720327044394>





What a wonderful morning we had today at the Westchester 4th of July Parade. The weather was great, and the people were all decked out in red white and blue outfits. It's gorgeous to see all the houses decorated with red white and blue bunting and flags in this beautiful tree-lined neighborhood (we did see one upside down flag, lol!)

We start off our morning at Beach Park where six Corvettes of Bakersfield Corvettes gathered up for the caravan to our staging area near the parade route where we begin decorating our cars upon arrival. We had the pleasure of carrying with us Mrs. Bakersfield Erica Kimmel and Senator Shannon Grove's field representative, Christine Diaz. These beautiful ladies just make our cars look so much better.

As we moved slowly down the parade route, we are lucky **not** to be sprayed upon by the bystanders who are all loaded up with high-powered spray guns to cool down all the parade participants. Of course, there are many other parade participants that are shooting back at the same time. That is probably why the parade moves so slow. It kind of leaves us as sitting ducks, sometimes. It is all in fun, and it adds a little bit of excitement to our participants.

We enjoy seeing all the wonderful people, and we got to see a few dignitaries such as Senator Vince Fong and Mayor Karen Goh. We were also serenaded by the Veterans Family Band playing all sorts of the patriotic music. This is a wonderful parade that rivals any other, mainly because it is put on by the local neighborhood. Pure Americana.

Afterwards, a few of us decided to go have breakfast at Marie Callender's where we got to enjoy a delicious meal and, of course, American Pie.

By Adrian Medina





CHAUFFEURS FOR HIRE

In the early evening of September 6, we had another fun time with fellow COB members chauffeuring one of five young ladies who were celebrating Sayla Ruiz' 11th birthday. The five of us Corvettes of Bakersfield members surprised Sayla and her friends with a secret Corvette cruise to the Stockdale Country Club for their special dinner. We were all decked out in our chauffeuring finery and made quite an impression to the young ladies.

By Adrian Medina



TEJON OUTLETS CAR SHOW

Corvettes of Bakersfield was well represented on September 13 at the Outlets at Tejon's 5th Annual Car Show. Parked in the premier spaces under the solar panels, six COB members attended with two walking away with top awards. The 1st place winners were Mitch Townsend in the C4-C8 category with his 2024 C8 Z06 and Ed Combs won 1st place with his 1962 C1 in the C1-C3 category. Congratulations guys!

By Adrian Medina



SALTY'S CAR SHOW FOR PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR & CREST RV BRUNCH

It was a busy day on September 14 for the Corvettes of Bakersfield. We started off the morning with a car show in the parking lot at Salty's Bar-B-Que & Catering and Purpose Built-Home of the Trades as a fund raiser for the Portrait of a Warrior-Kern gallery. We had 12 Corvettes from our club in attendance as well as numerous other classic cars and hot rods. Live music was provided by a great Country band known as '**The Nightlife Band**'.

After the car show we convoyed over to the Crest RV Park for lunch where we met other members from the club that weren't at the car show for a total of 26 members. We had a great time visiting, laughing and enjoying lunch.

It was great to finally be out and about with our Corvettes and our special group of friends.

If you aren't a member of COB and own a Corvette, now is a good time to consider joining as we have a slate full of activities coming up over the next few months to include Sunday brunches, holiday parades, fun runs and many other special events open to club members and guests only

By Danny Ellison



SALTY'S CAR SHOW FOR PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR & CREST RV BRUNCH





Corvettes of Bakersfield member Angelo Mazzei was honored on September 4th with the prestigious John Brock Community Service Award presented annually to honor a community or business leader who significantly improves the quality of life in Bakersfield and Kern County while reflecting John Brock's legacy of leadership, service and deep commitment to the region.

Angelo's influence spread worldwide with his and wife Mary's company,

Mazzei Injector Company which began in his garage in 1978 growing from \$50,000 in sales to about \$10 million in annual sales, years later. Angelo holds over 20 US patents with systems he created in use across industries ranging from agriculture and water treatment to aquaculture and environmental sustainability. He is a member of numerous boards and has been devoted to civic and educational causes throughout Kern County. We are proud to have him as a member of Corvettes of Bakersfield. Congratulations, Angelo!

By Adrian Medina



JEFF SALTERS AWARDED



Corvettes of Bakersfield member and benefactor, Jeff Salters, was honored at Luigi's Warehouse as a True Hometown Hero by the Bakersfield Police Activities League. Jeff is a leader in the community and is constantly giving back to the community. He is a big supporter of local law enforcement. Jeff Salters, owner of the 'Best Barbecue in Bakersfield', Salty's Barbecue and Catering, is well known for his outstanding support of Honor Flight Kern County. Whether it's supporting other local businesses or just helping other people in need, Jeff is at the forefront leading the pack to get things done. One instance is when, after the Los Angeles fires, he and other supporters gathered donations from the generous citizens of Bakersfield and caravanned four trucks with Jeff driving his own truck pulling a large trailer

full of food, blankets, clothing, baby supplies and much more to the burned out areas of LA. Another instance is when during the January 6, 2024 30-car pileup on Interstate 5, Jeff took it upon himself to take food and blankets to the many stranded survivors and first responders...not just once but two times into the night. Jeff Salters is very deserving of this reward and may many more blessings come his way!

Quotes Jeff: "It's an honor to be awarded this from the community and even more to hear from my 3 sons and how they spoke about my life. Thank you to my family and friends!"

By Adrian Medina



PRESCOTT, AZ CORVETTE SHOW

It was an action filled trip with a wild ride during a torrential rain storm from Kingman to Prescott, Arizona. We arrived in Prescott around noon after a two and half hour drive from Kingman in a horrendous thunder storm. It rained so hard at times it was zero visibilty. Sitting here in our hotel room looking out the window...it is still raining! Just checked the weather report and it is suppose to rain the next day, too! Bummer! It won't be much of a car show in the rain. We had a little breather from the rain for a few hours in the morning in Prescott but the sky opened up during most of the show, so everything was viewed from under cover.

We traveled over in two groups, one going to Williams for the train ride to the Grand Canyon and two of us went to Kingman and spent the night before going on to Prescott. We all met up at Prescott and hung out together during and after the show. After the show on Saturday we all gathered together in the lounge for pizza and dominoes at our hotel, the historic St. Michaels. Built in 1864, the Hotel St. Michaels was known as the cornerstone of the famous street, Whiskey Row, where notorious characters such as Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday would be encountered. Prescott, Arizona was designated as the inaugural capital of the Arizona territory. So much history.

After leaving Prescott, it was still raining. We all traveled together to Laughlin to spend our final night and take care of business before heading home.

By Danny Ellison & Adrian Medina/Photos by MDRimages & Danny Ellison



PRESCOTT, AZ CORVETTE SHOW



Discreet Tracking Device for your Corvette

by Virgil Miller

I came across this device on Amazon and thought I would share it with you. I've been using an Apple Airtag hidden in our Corvette for a while now. This allows me to locate the vehicle with the Find App that is built into the iPhone. The downside is that the small coin sized battery only lasts for nine to twelve months. The Elevation Lab TimeCapsule AirTag allows the AirTag to last for 10-years.

You simply install your AirTag in the waterproof housing and add two Lithium AA batteries. Once you pair it with your iPhone, you hide it in your vehicle. You now have ten years of knowing where your vehicle is located just by looking at your iPhone's app.

You can find it on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D1LH7ZCT?th=1>

It sells for \$20 each or a 4 pack for \$40. Apple AirTags are about \$20 each. Lithium AA batteries are about \$10.

Elevation Lab TimeCapsule AirTag

- Over 14x more battery capacity than AirTag's CR2032.
- Uses two AA batteries (NOT INCLUDED). We recommend Energizer Ultimate Lithium for longest life. We do not recommend alkaline batteries.
- Easy assembly: Remove AirTag's battery and metal door, place on custom contact. Insert AA batteries. Screw together with included 4mm hex wrench.
- IP69 Waterproof & ultra-durable. Sound volume is about 2/3rd that of an uncased AirTag.

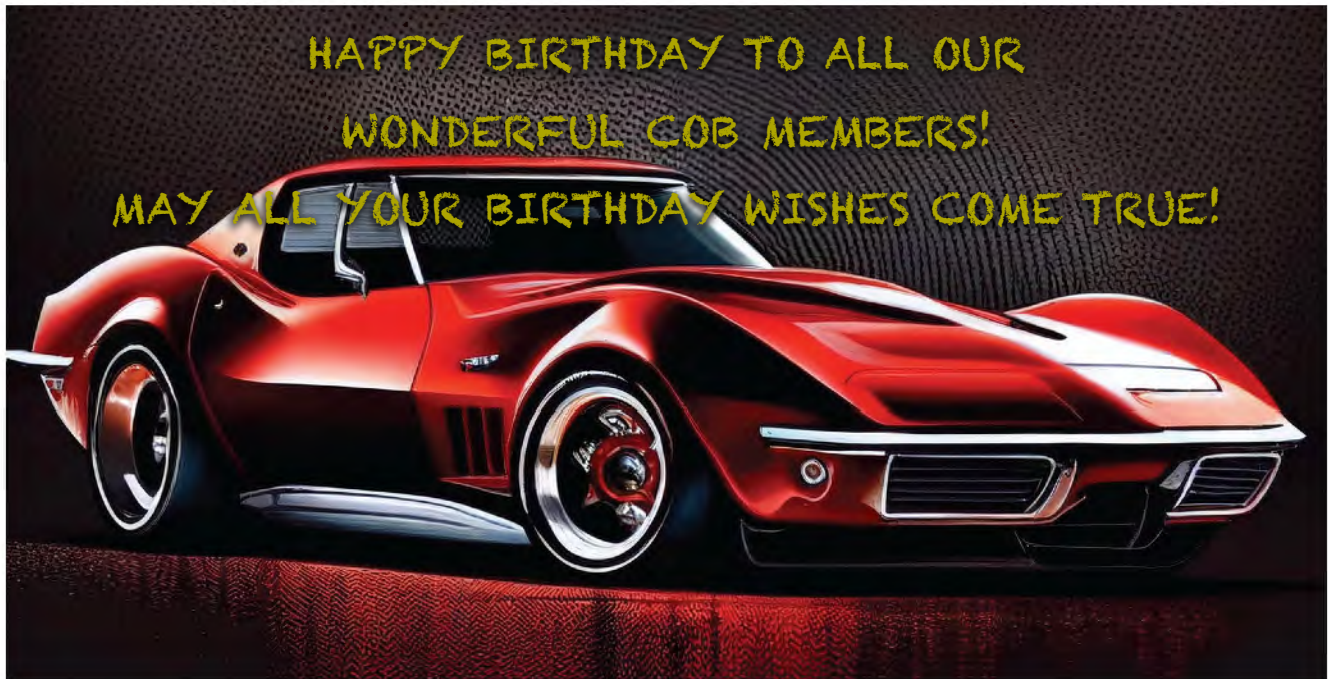


• Ultra-strong fiber reinforced composite construction + CNC machined screws.

• Discreet, doesn't look like an AirTag case (4.45" long x 1.57" wide x 0.75" tall).

• The ultimate peace of mind: 12 months goes fast, and the last thing you want is a dead AirTag on something you value. Great for vehicles, trailers, motorcycles, luggage, camera bags, backpacks, snowmobiles, toolboxes, etc.

• Patented.





In 2021, the Corvettes of Bakersfield's Charity Board created a \$500.00 scholarship for students with the desire and aptitude to be part of Bakersfield College's vocational Automotive Technology Program. It has since grown to three \$1,000.00 awards. This new scholarship aligns with who we are; we are a club of individuals that love our cars and value the skills required to keep all vehicles performing safely and correctly. We also value our community and see this scholarship as an opportunity to support our youth and returning students desiring a valued vocation, but with some need for financial support. Interested students are encouraged to apply for this scholarship if they are interested in this certification program (and the additional classes to earn their Associates Degree, if desired). Applications for the scholarship open on October 1 and end February 1. Special thank you to our long-time Corvettes of Bakersfield member and charter donor, Ray Thurm, for his generous donation. Ray is a retired auto shop educator.
By Virgil Miller

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

CORVETTES OF BAKERSFIELD

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Enrolled in Automotive Technology AA or certificate program
- ✓ Minimum 2.0 GPA
- ✓ 2 Letters of Recommendations

Start applying October 1st

This scholarship aligns with who we are; we are a club of individuals that love our cars and value the skills required to keep all vehicles performing safely and correctly.



TITANIUM SPONSOR



Corvettes of Bakersfield would like to thank and honor our very first TITANIUM sponsor, Jeff Salters of Salty's BBQ and Catering. Salty's has been featured on Guy Fieri's Diner's, Drive-ins and Dives on the Food Network and became famous *Nationally*. Guy Fieri says "This is the real deal!". Jeff has also been a proud supporter of Kern County Honor Flight and Kern County first responders. As a fellow Corvette owner, Jeff has supported Corvettes of Bakersfield in many ways including the use of his banquet room as a place to hold our meetings and special events such as our annual Christmas party and Corvette Birthday celebrations. All the while we have been enjoying his delicious food and service. Thanks Jeff!!

By Adrian Medina

Please support our event sponsors

Titanium Sponsors



Platinum Sponsors



Chrome Sponsors



CLUB MERCHANDISE

Club Merchandise

Contact Virgil Miller

Polo Shirts - \$24 - \$27

Available on our website <https://cobcharity.square.site/product/club-polo-shirt/10>



T-Shirts - \$20 each Available at our monthly meetings



Parade Flags - \$10 each Available at our monthly meetings



Ball Caps - \$20 Available at our monthly meetings





Larry Young's beautiful 2014 Lime Rock Green Corvette is being beautifully cared for and maintained by his daughter Andrea Ames and grandson Colin Ames.

