

# CORVETTES OF BAKERSFIELD

2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC Edition



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## Gambler's Classic Special

In this issue, we have a day by day review of the Gambler's Classic held in Laughlin, Nevada. We had a very successful event which brought together 36 clubs, 207 Corvettes and 370 participants. The highest number of entries in a club was 25 Corvettes with 45 people from the Palm Springs Corvette club. Reno Corvette Club came in second with 23 Corvettes and 41 people. The long distance award came from Sebastopol, California at 625 miles. I would like to bring up a fact that one of our ex COB members had moved to Pennsylvania and came to the West Coast, especially for this event. We were glad to see you again, David Kielty! Congratulations for a job well done to Event Leads Virgil and Kim Miller and the 36 members of Corvettes of Bakersfield that helped to put this event together and made it run as smoothly as it did. We salute you!

By Adrian Medina

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's hard to believe that it is almost mid-year. So much has occurred since the last newsletter. Corvettes of Bakersfield has remained active within the community and continues to support several of our local charities. We just completed our Gambler's Classic 2026, which was the 25th anniversary of our hosting the event. We saw 200 Corvettes in the parking lot, and attendees were happy with the activities we provided. It was a beautiful sight!

Board elections are quickly approaching. This is the time when we have the opportunity to choose our leadership. These are your members who are willing to give their time to promote fun and activities for your benefit. The volunteers that make up the board of directors are the backbone and a valuable component of the structure of Corvettes of Bakersfield. All their time and efforts are donated; they want to see the club thrive.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer ahead. Please join us when you can and Save the Wave!

Sincerely,



## Current Board of Directors



**Kim Miller**  
President



**Bill Dean**  
Vice president



**Janice Dean**  
Treasurer



**Mark Pucilowski**  
Secretary



**Diane Wallace**  
Public Relations/Charity Liaison



**Linda Stacey**  
Membership



**Liz Zaninovich**  
Events



**Adrian Medina**  
Newsletter



**Virgil Miller**  
Web Master



**Curtis McFadden**  
Sergeant at Arms

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION



Well gang, it's that time again for electing a new Corvettes of Bakersfield Board of Directors. According to the Corvettes of Bakersfield bylaws, the Board of Directors manages, controls and directs the business of the club and performs other duties as may be required by these bylaws. The Board of Directors meets once a month; usually a week prior to our general meetings. Each board member in attendance, with the exception of the president, casts one vote on any matter presented. The president votes only in case of a tie.

Board of Directors are elected at a regular COB meeting held during the month of June. Nominations are held when the vice president and a nominating committee meet prior to the April general meeting and collect names of candidates for the elected offices. Nominations are then announced at the May regular club meeting. Any COB Member may run for any office but only one at a time. Each active member present at the June meeting shall be entitled to one vote for each office to be filled. Members may vote electronically or in person at the June meeting; not both ways. It is essential that you attend this June meeting to vote for your candidate.

Each committee member determines the winners after the votes are counted. The candidates for office receiving a majority of votes will be declared elected to that seat. The elected Board Directors are automatically installed into their respective offices and will assume duties as of July 1st of the fiscal year. It is essential to participate in both the election process and becoming a candidate for office. The club runs smoothly whenever everyone participates in all aspects of the election. All members are encouraged to participate in holding an office position at least for one year. New ideas and participation helps keep the club fresh and operating smoothly.

By Adrian Medina

# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## A Little History:

The 2026 Gambler's Classic marks the 25th nonconsecutive Corvette event put on by the Corvettes of Bakersfield since 1992. The first COB Gambler's Classic was a small affair held in Havasu City, Arizona with only a smattering of cars attending. After the show, COB club members would drive to Laughlin to whoop it up at the River Palms Casino. Originally, the Gambler's Classic was started up by a club in the Southland for one year before it was taken over by Corvettes of Bakersfield. There is no further information on that event.

The River Palms Casino hosted the Gambler's Classic for years, but the event soon outgrew the parking lot. In the early years, the event grew exponentially due to the hard work and direction of Jerry & Lori Berger along with Rod & Bev Hayden, Phil Lacey, Jerry Bailey, Frank Holden, Lloyd & Kathy Gentry, Tom & Gayla Gibson, Lyle & Teresa Joslin and Jim & Marilyn Love. After a hiatus of four years, the Taylor Brothers took it over for a couple of years...then Patti Coffman, Bob Vella, Linda McNitt and Virgil & Kim Miller... just a few of the many COB members dedicated to the success of the Gambler's Classic.

While at the River Palms Casino, the Gambler's Classic grew to over 700 Corvettes with the event being held under a tent in the parking lot. It was HUGE. The decision was made to move the event to Buffalo Bill's in Primm, Nevada, where it was held for two years. Problems such as construction on Highway 15 reeked havoc with things like the poker run. The parking lot could hold up to 1000 cars but people didn't like Buffalo Bill's so the event went back to the River Palms. However, the lot at River Palms was owned by a family, not the casino, and the family was worried about liability issues. The Gambler's Classic ended in 2007 with over 700 Corvettes spread all over the place. Some rumors say there was 1200 Corvettes in the city of Laughlin.

When the Taylor Brothers decided to pick up the baton, they did a lot of research and found out that a move to the Riverside Resort and Casino was the result of a very accommodating hotel. The casino gave us lots of extras like a fenced event area with security, comped rooms, a large theater for our banquets and concerts and a smaller (the Starview) room for our meet and greets and award ceremonies. In 2011 we ended up having over 440 participants and 229 Corvettes with 69 COB volunteers. In those years, there were two dinner shows being held, which was something of a nightmare trying to seat everyone with their friends.

Corvettes of Bakersfield had the reputation of putting on a great dinner/show with tons of wonderful raffle prizes. The raffle included gifts such as bicycles, big screen TVs, wheels and tires and lots of other great prizes that were impossible for a Corvette to carry home. New rules from the State of Nevada created a major change to a silent auction.

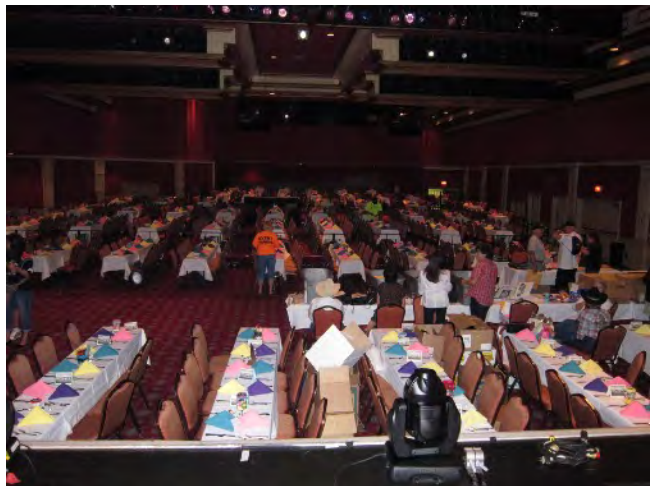
By Adrian Medina



Buffalo Bill's Stateline, NV 2006



River Palms Casino Laughlin, NV 2007



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC PREPARATIONS

Prepping for Gambler's Classic is a huge undertaking for a relatively small club like Corvettes of Bakersfield. Under the excellent leadership of Virgil and Kim Miller, as well as the leads on the committees, we had a hugely entertaining and beneficial fundraiser for our club.

The decision to begin another Gambler's Classic usually begins with the success of the previous Gambler's Classic. At the 2024 'Classic, we realized that the Riverside Resort and Casino was going to do some remodeling and modifications to our very important Starview Room. As a result of a two year hiatus, participants were very eager for the next Gambler's Classic.

After the club's positive decision to hold the next 'All Corvette' event, Virgil and Kim assumed the leadership and did all the necessary legwork to get contracts signed, poker runs mapped out, and meals and events scheduled and timed so that everything runs smoothly. They took care of all of the printing materials and logistics of putting everything together.

To make the event run smoothly, you need a lot of club participation. Many 'thank-yous' to all those who have participated and helped out in the various committees such as the parking committee, decorating, silent auction and registration as well as all the other lesser jobs performed during the event. A couple of the lesser jobs, but very important, were the polishing of the trailer (we need to look good, of course) hauling the golf cart and all the gifts and materials needed for the big event from Bakersfield to Laughlin. One of the big jobs was where the ladies did an awesome job of organizing and wrapping the silent auction items. Kudos to Don and Jeanne Allen's crew for prepping all the gift baskets at their home and loading and hauling everything to Laughlin and to Mitch Townsend for the use of his golf cart.

By Adrian Medina



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC PREPARATIONS



Just weeks before the big trip to Laughlin, a small crew got together and prepared goodie and registration materials in bags supplied by Keen Auto Parts. We had goodie bags for over 200 guests and members filled by assembly line in a little over two hours. At the same time, the trailer was being loaded with non-perishable items in hot 90°+ weather.



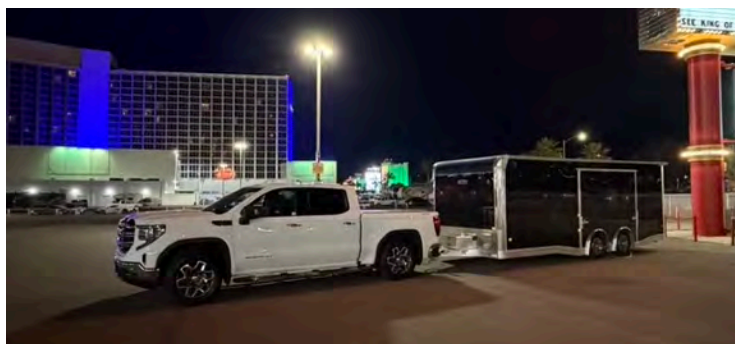
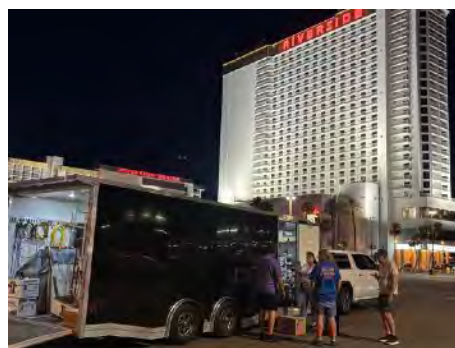
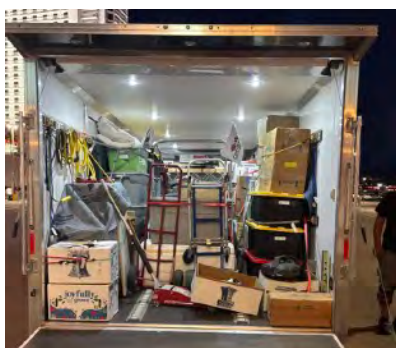
*Sitting dormant in our storage shed for many, many years was a large model of a '64 C2 Corvette. It's been in storage for so long, we don't know who donated it. Don Allen and Bill Dean did a great job of putting it together as well as Bill's other creations.*

# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC PREPARATIONS

On Wednesday the day before the show, we took the 5 hour drive to Laughlin. It was a nice and easy drive where we got to stop for a break wherever we wanted as Christine and I were going solo. Once we reached Laughlin, we stopped to check out where our poker stop in Bullhead City was located in preparation for a poker run on Saturday after the car show. My apologies for making a last-minute change on stop number two where I moved the station about a block further south to take advantage of a small shade structure. It kind of threw off the poker runners a little bit since we could not be readily seen because of a dip and hill between the original location and where we were waiting. So sorry!!!

The COB club members that arrived on Wednesday got together and had a delicious dinner at the Casa Serrano Mexican restaurant next to the Riverside Resort and Casino. Originally, we were anticipating unloading the trailer before dinner but we were told that we had to do it the next morning. After our delicious dinner, we went down to the trailer, got our registration packets, secured the trailer for the night and headed towards the casino. This was the calm before the storm. The next day it was all hands on deck and a flurry of activity.

By Adrian Medina



# Editorial: The Beauty of Parking in a Straight Formation

I have never been a military man; although I was in the school band for four years. But I can truly appreciate the impression given when things are “squared away”. Maybe it’s my OCD... which is doubtful that I have, because you should see my desk... or it could be my inclination to boss people around, but you cannot deny the impression one gets when they see a perfect formation. The photo of the Blue Angels illustrates exactly what I mean. I realize that there are those who can not or will not back-in to park like all the others and there are those who want to put their SUVs in with the Corvettes because they don’t want to walk a few extra feet. Many photo opportunities are lost when there are large gaps in a caravan that will allow an outsider to drive in between our Corvettes. Tsk, tsk, tsk!

As far as backing in to park, when there’s no one around to help you line up, may I recommend that you make absolutely sure there’s nothing you will run into behind you such as parking blocks or chairs, and just line up your mirror with the Vette next to you after you backed up. Take into consideration the angle you are parking and you will be looking pretty good and straight. For those with the C8 Corvettes, your mirror will be a few inches forward more than the earlier generations next to you due to the shorter hood. Just something to think about.

By Adrian Medina



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Thursday, Day 1

### **Parking, Registration, Ice Cream Social and Glow Show Parade**

Thursday morning started off bright and early. After a quick breakfast, we headed down to the south side casino entrance and start unloading the trailer with the help of a couple of bellhops. We loaded everything onto their carts and they took them upstairs where they unloaded all the boxes and equipment in the Starview room. Thanks to their hard work, we got everything unloaded rather quickly.

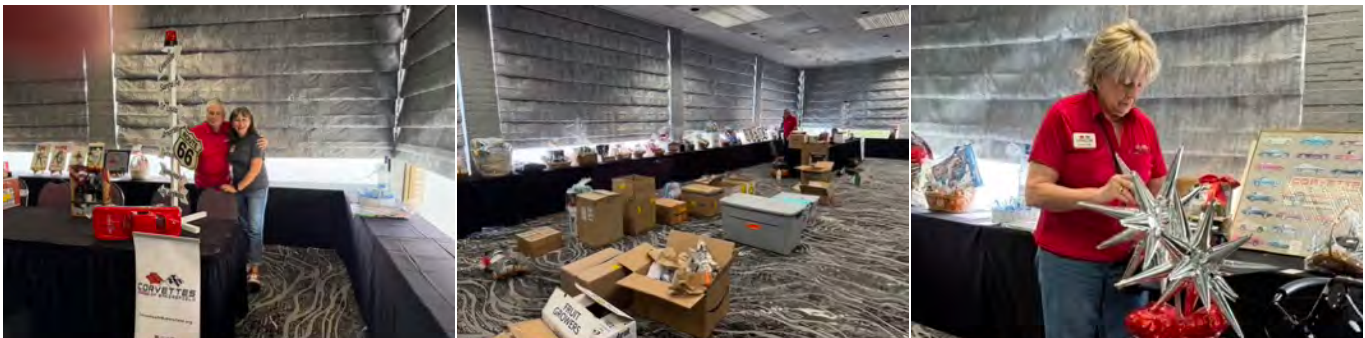
We headed out to the parking lot and get all our registration packets alphabetized and ready to hand out as the girls were organizing all the gift baskets and decorating the Starview Room for the Ice Cream Social happening later that night. Just before 12 noon, the official opening of the parking lot, we let the Lodi club drive in, get registered and parked. They were grateful as they had been waiting since the night before.

It was a very busy day as many of the participants were driving up in clusters. We did a great job parking all the clubs together and they really enjoyed being next to their fellow club members instead of parking all the cars by generations which spread everybody all over the parking lot. After we got the majority of cars parked, we closed the parking lot and put everything away. We went to get cleaned up for the ice cream social which started at 7:30. It was great to see all the smiling faces in an old-fashioned ice cream social where the long lines ended up with a bowl full of delicious Thrifty Ice Cream with a variety of toppings including cherries, strawberries, sprinkles, and nuts with whipped cream and chocolate syrup.

As 9:00 pm rolled up, we all proceeded to the parking lot where we begin our first ever Glow Show Parade; a rolling light show. What a blast that was! All these beautiful and highly customized Corvettes were lit up with music blaring and engines revving. It was a sight to see and the assembled crowd was enjoying it... thoroughly. The idea of the Glow Show light parade was a result of Temecula's V.O.W. (Vettes Out West) Corvette Club's appearance two years ago. All of their cars are highly customized and lit up for the night.  
By Adrian Medina

Click on our Corvettes of Bakersfield Flickr page for over 700 photos and videos of the Gambler's Classic event.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/corvettesofbakersfield/albums/>



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Thursday, Day 1



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Friday, Day 2

### Parking, Dinner & Dance, Challenge Coin Distribution

**W**e woke up Friday morning to a very windy day...however, the temperatures were still holding to the mid 80s by the afternoon. It is a far cry from the previous Gambler's Classics where we've had to contend with temperatures over 90° to 100°. We had the Ice Cream Social the day before, and the Glow Show Parade immediately after. Everything was moving along fantastically!

The parking crew was more relaxed with less activity as opposed to Thursday where there was a plethora of Corvettes coming in. Upstairs in the Star View room, however, the girls were frantically rushing to get the room redecorated for the upcoming formal dinner. What a great job they did!

The car wash crew of Mookie Bridges and nephew did an outstanding job getting the Corvette's clean and ready for the car show on Saturday. Many a bug lost their worthless lives on the long trip to Laughlin and had to be cleaned off by Mookie.

The theme colors for the dinner/dance were silver and black denoting 25 years of Gambler's Classic and 100 years of Route 66, but there was all manner of dress-ups and outfits to be seen. The most spectacular were the girls from Palm Springs Corvette club, who dressed in some beautiful patriotic jackets.

The dinner was wonderfully delicious, as always, and there was more than enough food for everybody.

After dinner, the dance floor started heating up and Jeff Salters of Salty's Barbecue and Catering in Bakersfield was busy handing out beautiful challenge coins to everybody in attendance with a handshake and a smile. As part of his sponsorship, Jeff had these unique coins made to commemorate the 25th Gambler's Classic.

Many clubs had their group pictures taken in the photo area of the Starview room. After everything was said and done, everybody went to their rooms or the casino very satisfied, full, and happy.

By Adrian Medina

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# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Friday, Day 2



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Friday, Day 2



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Saturday, Day 3

### Gambler's Classic Saturday Corvette Show, Poker Run, and Award Ceremony

Saturday morning at the Gambler's Classic in Laughlin, Nevada saw all the participants waking up early and polishing their vehicles for the Gambler's Classic All Corvette Car Show. It was the final day of our great event and everybody was set to impress their fellow Corvette enthusiast as well as the general public.

At 9:00 am, opening ceremonies began with a beautiful rendition of the 'Star-Spangled Banner' by **Vettes Out West** member, Jonathon Harkless. Soon after, judges set out in groups to scrutinize and rate all the Corvettes in the lot. It is a truly difficult job when you see so many beautiful cars and you have to pick your favorite out of the many. An impossible job that leaves many truly worthy possible winners disappointed. The task was made more difficult in that generations of Corvettes were scattered around the lot instead of grouped in sections as was previously done in other Gambler's Classics. Being able to group the clubs together was very successful and fulfilling and everybody was happy to be parked next to their club members. Nonetheless, the winner was selected using a judging app that tally's all the points given by the judges.

After the car show ended at 12 o'clock, the poker run began. Tons of cars headed out for the poker run, which was a smaller version route than in previous poker runs. Nevertheless, it was very challenging, especially at stop number two where we (I was there) moved the location over a block length to the south of the landmark tortoise. Had the land been flat it would been a lot easier for participants to see us, however, there was a large hill and dip that obscured us from the tortoise area. We parked Chris Fleming's C8 halfway so that they could see his car and proceed to us where we had a little shade structure to protect us from the sun.

The awards ceremony was held upstairs in the Star View room where the large crowd had a great time cheering on the winners of the Corvette car show. We all had a great time being together, and, from this point of view, the whole event went flawlessly with the exception of a couple from Porterville who got locked out of their overheating C7 on their arrival on Thursday. After an attempt with a tow truck operator who gave up rather quickly and conversations with the local dealer, they ended up spending the night at the hotel without any of their belongings which were still locked in the car. The next day, thank goodness for another tow truck operator, Bud, who, with a never say die attitude, succeeded in opening the Corvette's door after many attempts.

We welcome any comments and suggestions concerning this Gambler's Classic! Please tell us your experiences. Pictures of all the winners and their Corvettes can be seen on our Gambler's Classic Facebook page as well as our Corvettes of Bakersfield website and our Flickr page:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/corvettesofbakersfield/albums/>

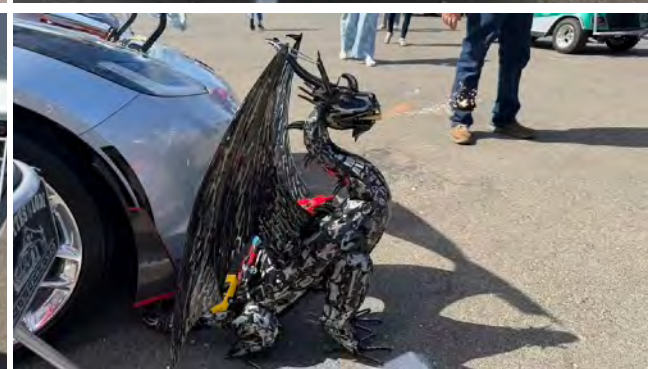
# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Saturday, Day 3



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Saturday, Day 3



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Saturday, Day 3



# 2026 GAMBLER'S CLASSIC

## Going Home

Sunday morning was a very bittersweet time as we were saying goodbye to all our friends and preparing for the long trip back home to Bakersfield.

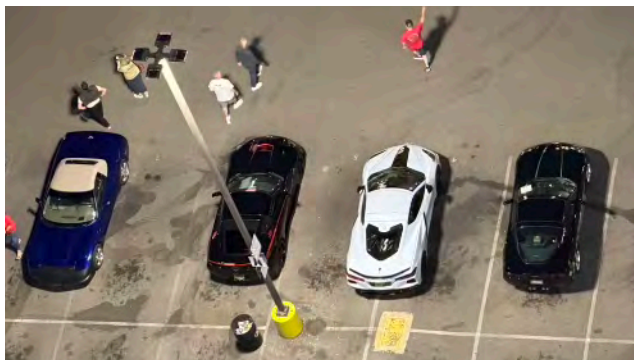
The previous day, Saturday, as soon as we closed down the award show, it was all hands on deck to get the trailer loaded up and ready for the Sunday trip home. We tried going to have dinner at a restaurant that evening, but our reservation was given to another car club so half of us decided to go out on our own.

The next morning, everyone was leaving Laughlin at different times; probably due to a slowdown on I40 for road repairs from a previous accident. Being on my own, I decided to go through Highway 15 through Baker, California. I came across an oddity; a souvenir shop/motel catering to traveling 'aliens'. It was pretty quirky but fun at the same time.

Thanks everybody for a great week of Corvette camaraderie.

By Adrian Medina

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# The Story Behind the Gambler's Classic Challenge Coin

By Virgil Miller

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion, usually made of metal, bearing the insignia or emblem of an organization and carried by its members. Traditionally, they are used to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. While several stories exist, the most popular legend dates back to World War I. A wealthy lieutenant ordered solid bronze medallions for his unit. One pilot, after being shot down and escaping to French lines without identification, used the coin to prove his identity to French soldiers who initially thought he was a saboteur. Today, they are a deep-rooted tradition across all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, law enforcement, fire departments, and even some civilian organizations.



## The "Challenge" Rules:

### The most common "game" associated with these coins is the Coin Check:

- **The Initiation:** A member initiates a challenge by bumping their coin on a hard surface or shouting that a challenge is in progress.
- **The Requirement:** Everyone challenged must produce their own coin immediately.
- **The Penalty:** If you cannot produce your coin, you must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and everyone who did have their coin.
- **The Backfire:** If everyone challenged produces their coin, the challenger must buy the round of drinks for the entire group.

### Beyond the military, challenge coins serve several modern purposes:

- **Awards:** Often given by high-ranking officials (like the President or a General) to recognize a job well done.
- **Commemoration:** Created for specific events, anniversaries, or deployments.
- **Branding:** Corporations like Google, Microsoft, and Harley-Davidson have created coins for their employees or special product launches.

## The Story Behind the Gambler's Classic Challenge Coin

By Virgil Miller

**Fun Fact:** When a high-ranking official shakes your hand and "palms" a coin into your grip, it is considered a high honor known as a "secret handshake" award.

Our first challenge coin was created to commemorate our Gambler's Classic 2024. Our sponsor, Jeff Salters, owner of Salty's BBQ & Catering, donated the money to have the coins made. He has had other commemorative coins made for first responders and military personnel to thank them for their service.

Here is some design information that went into this year's commemorative challenge Gambler's Classic 2026 coin.

On the front side of the coin is the name of the event, "GAMBLER'S CLASSIC" and that the event was put on by the "CORVETTES OF BAKERSFIELD". The "CROSS FLAGS" represent America's sports car, the Corvette. The "25 YEARS" celebrates the Corvettes of Bakersfield's 25<sup>th</sup> Gambler's Classic event. The "2026", of course, is for the year of the event, which coincides with the centennial of "ROUTE 66 - 100 YEARS."



On the back of the coin is our generous sponsor "SALTY'S BBQ & CATERING." The "PLAYING CARDS" represent the poker run during the event. The "SLOT MACHINE" and the "ROULETTE WHEEL" are for our event name and the casino where the event was held. The "DICE 2 & 5" are in honor of our 25<sup>th</sup> event. The "ROUTE 66", again, pays homage to the Mother Road's centennial anniversary.

These images do not do this coin justice. The coin is heavy and very 3-dimensional. You need to hold it to appreciate its true feel and beauty.

# SALTY'S BAR-B-QUE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On January 5th, premier sponsor, member and benefactor of Corvettes of Bakersfield, Jeff Salters, had a groundbreaking ceremony for his new restaurant opening up at 3214 Coffee Road; right behind Raising Cane's Chicken.

Pastor Angelo Frasier gave the invocation and Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh was amongst other dignitaries honoring Jeff for his contributions to servicemen, first responders and the community. Corvettes of Bakersfield members, along with other car club enthusiasts, participated in the ceremony. Jeff is a well known car enthusiast who holds a Cruise-in at his White Lane restaurant every other week. He will hold his meets at the new location the other two weeks in staggered fashion.

The new location is due to open in late summer of 2026. Congratulations and good luck to Jeff Salters and his family for his expansion in northwest Bakersfield. Salty's Bar-B-Que is some damn good food and it's close to home, also. By Adrian Medina



## The Psychology of Corvette Owners



There is a great video on YouTube that discusses the psychology of why men choose to buy a Corvette. While as a man, I think the story really hits the mark but after watching it in its entirety, I think it applies to many ladies out there and if not, it might help ladies better understand why your guy thinks the way he does. You must watch it all the way through to get the complete picture. I was a little offended at the beginning but as it progressed, it really hit home.

The video does not make fun of Corvette owners. No old guys in shorts, knit shirts, and white New Balance tennis shoes. It really looks at who we are and why we feel the way we do about Corvettes. Just like Keith Cornett of Corvette Blogger, I noticed I was seeing myself in many of the video's scenarios.

Like Keith, I remember the first Corvette I ever was able to get close to and actually sit in the driver's seat. It was a new white 1960 roadster with a red interior sitting on the Chevy showroom floor in Mattoon, IL. I can still imagine the smells of the new seats and the fiberglass body. From then on, I was hooked.

Here is a paraphrase of the video's introduction:

*There is a particular moment in a man's life when he stands in a car dealership, keys in hand, not looking at a practical sedan or crossover, but at a Chevrolet Corvette. This moment is not just about buying a car; it is about fulfilling a deeply personal story that has often been years in the making. The Corvette, America's sports car since 1953, has survived numerous challenges and evolved through generations, yet one thing remains constant: buyers are purchasing more than transportation—they are buying a story about themselves.*

As the Corvette Blogger says, "The video dives into various theories about owners, from Identity-Based Purchasing, where people don't buy products; they buy versions of themselves. The Midlife Recalibration, because it's a reckoning, not a crisis. The Social Dimension is also something that cannot be overstated. But the Reward of Capability is among my favorites."

*The current Corvette models, especially the C8 Stingray and the Z06, offer supercar-level performance at a fraction of the cost. Buyers are fully aware that the car's capabilities far exceed what they will realistically use. The true reward lies in the permission slip the car provides—the knowledge that they could push the car to its limits, even if they never do. This potential is the essence of the Corvette's appeal.*

The video is definitely not about the Corvette and its many successes. It's about the Corvette culture and its ownership. Let me know what your thoughts are after viewing it.

To read the Corvette Blogger's review, go to: [\[VIDEO\] The Psychology of Corvette Owners - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

To watch the video on YouTube, go to: [The Psychology of Corvette Owners](#)

# KERN RIVER BREWERY RUN

We had our first big run of the year to the Kern River Brewery in Kernville, California on January 24th. Kern River Brewery is a popular employee owned brewery and restaurant located at 13415 Sierra Way. It is known for its local-themed beers, and delicious comfort food.

Kernville is a beautiful tourist town located 42 miles northeast of Bakersfield in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Kernville was established in 1858 when gold was discovered in the fork of two rivers currently under Lake Isabella. The established town underwent several name changes such as Rogersville, Williamsburg, Whiskey Flats, and in 1864, Kernville. When the dam was built to form Lake Isabella in 1948, the town of Kernville was moved upstream to higher elevations. Remnants of old Kernville are still visible when the water level drops very low.

We started our day at Tony's Pizza on Highway 178 on a cold 45° foggy, misty morning with 10 Corvettes. Driving through the canyon, we saw the beautiful sunshine coming through and the skies were perfectly clear with scattered clouds. We picked up another Corvette along the way with Lake Isabella resident, Mike Carter, joining us. The beautiful, green, scenic canyon road led us to the Kern River Brewing Company where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and drinks served by Jen who did a great job taking care of us. While at the brewery, we were joined by Jim from Lake Isabella and COB members Marvin and Holly Wendt from Ridgecrest.

We held a 'members contribution drawing' where the lucky winner, Chris Espitia, won \$75. Congratulations Chris!

After having a great time at the brewery, we decided to take some photo ops by the river and then drive over to the backside of the lake to take some more pictures. The sky was beautiful, and the water looked very calm and smooth. By Adrian Medina



# KERN RIVER BREWERY RUN



# VALENTINES DAY DINNER at the PHOENIX

Happy Valentines Day to all our friends and family (and lovers, lol!) We had a wonderful evening on Valentines Day at the Phoenix Restaurant in Kern City just west of Stine Road. Thirty loving members of Corvettes of Bakersfield enjoyed a Valentines night of raucous conversation and good humor while enjoying a delicious dinner. Our server, Ethan, did an amazing job of taking care of all of us hungry and demanding members. We all left the restaurant satiated and ready to go home with full tummys and full of love. Thank you, Diane for the Valentine cookies and to Jeanne for the candy treats.

By Adrian Medina



# BRUNCH OF CORVETTES at SENOR PEPE'S

On March 15, Corvettes of Bakersfield had its 'Brunch of Corvettes' at Senor Pepe's Mexican Restaurant on 8450 Granite Falls Drive. As always, we had a great dining experience and the food was spectacular. We had a great time with our loud group but we were outdone by our neighboring table consisting of the Kern County C10 truck club who was celebrating birthdays. Regardless, we all had a blast!

By Adrian Medina



# SOLVANG WINE TOUR RUN

Saturday morning March 21, we started on our trip to Solvang headed by the Corvette Owners club of San Diego and the Palm Springs Corvette club. While we were heading out towards Cuyama, we got behind a group of Model A's struggling to make it up a steep grade...boy they were having fun! When we arrived in Cuyama, we made a pit stop at the park where I encountered an old BPD retiree friend named Ed Usery.

Upon arrival in Solvang, we were greeted with extremely warm, humid weather making for a sultry walk around Solvang while waiting for our hotel room to be available.

As the Corvette caravans from Southern and Eastern California began filing in, we started meeting old friends and making new ones as we all had the common interest of Corvettes. Unfortunately, our group from Bakersfield was small but we made up for it in fun, laughter and....eating. As you probably know, Solvang has the best pastry and chocolate candy shops in the world. The dinner dining experience is quite a treat too.

Sunday morning, we all gathered in the reserved area for Corvette parking at the rear of the hotel where we not only had all the Corvette's parked and on display, but enjoyed coffee and pastries. The Corque Hotel really went all out to accommodate all of us. It's a great hotel and highly recommended to put on the top of your list for a place to stay when you visit Solvang.

On Sunday evening, about 100 of us filled AJ Spurs Steakhouse just outside of Buellton for a great dinner. As expected, we had a great time visiting with all the various Corvette owners.

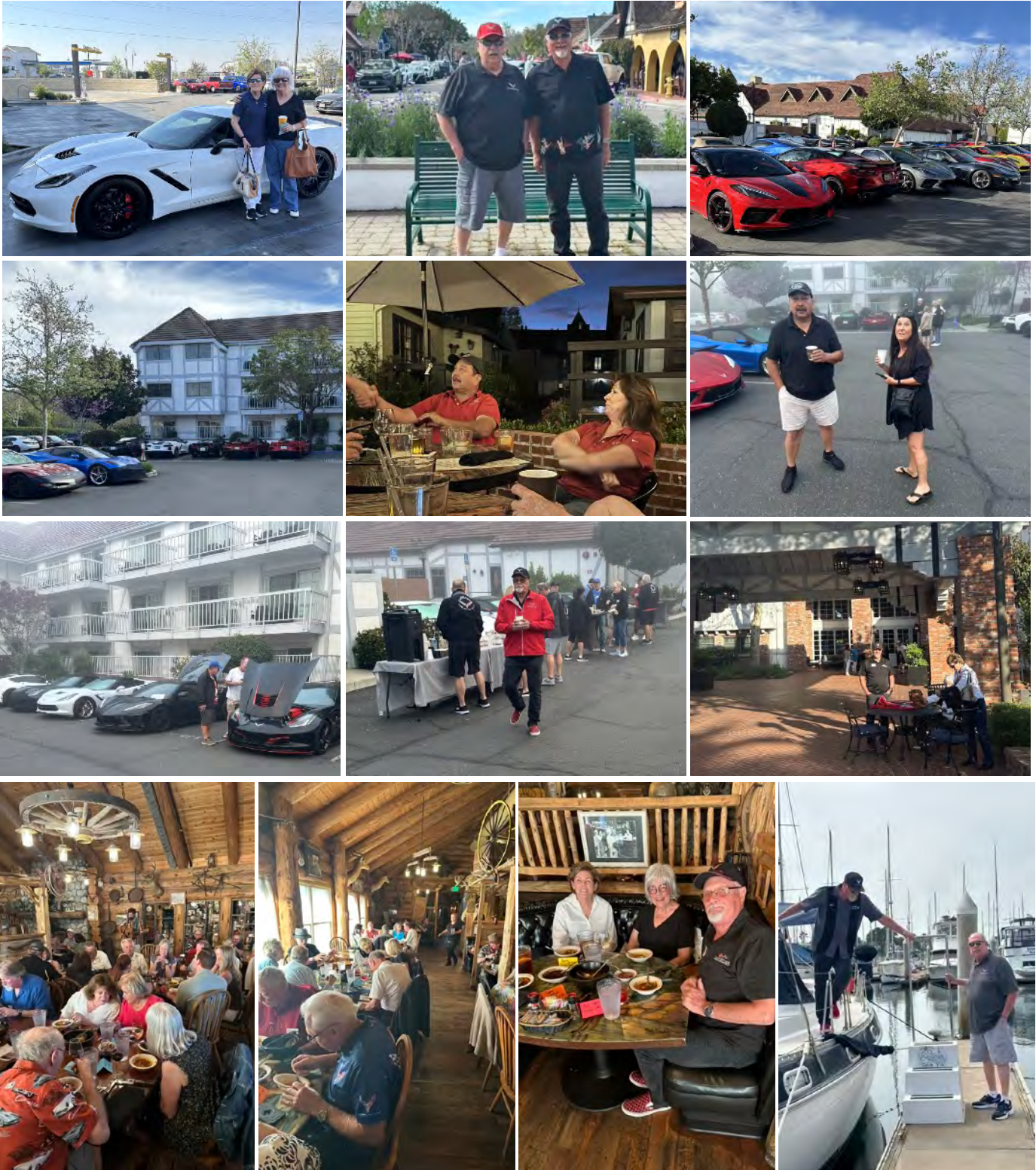
Monday morning, while the rest of the Corvette people boarded a charter bus to visit a couple wineries and have lunch, Bill & Janice Dean, Donna and I cruised on down to the Channel Islands to check out the Dean's boat then over to Ventura harbor for dinner and later spending the night at the Holiday Inn Express hotel.

Tuesday morning after breakfast, we decided to forego our original plan of going back up the coast to Santa Maria for lunch at Shaw's Steakhouse and headed for home. That will be saved for another time.

To sum it up, we ate too much and walked about forty miles but had one heck of a good time. Looking forward to next year should they decide to do it again. Thanks to Stan Moreno and Alex Best for putting this together and allowing us to join in.

By Danny Ellison

# SOLVANG WINE TOUR RUN



# CORVETTE PACIFICA CAR SHOW

The second annual Corvette Pacifica Show and Shine Car Show was held on March 21, 2026. A small group of Corvettes of Bakersfield members attended the show while another small group of COB members headed down to Solvang to attend the run being put on by Corvette Owners Club of San Diego and the Palm Springs Corvette club.

Corvette Pacifica sells 'everything Corvette' retail parts from their warehouse in Atascadero, California. They are the largest distributor of parts and accessories for Corvettes of all model years west of the Mississippi.

The Corvette Pacifica Show and Shine was held to benefit the Atascadero High School automotive program. The event featured live music, local food and showcased about 50-75 cars, including Corvettes and other makes and models. All proceeds were to benefit the local high school automotive program. The judging was very interesting...the students themselves were judging the vehicles. Their instructor had given them tips on what they should be looking at when judging. I thought "what a great way to get students involved with cars". Thanks Mike of Corvette Pacifica!

We had a great time with friends from SLO Vettes, Central Coast Corvettes, and of course, Harold's group of Corvettes and other makes and models. Chris and Liz took home the prize of Best Modern Muscle...keeping COB's long tradition of bringing home a trophy! After the show, we met up with other COB members in Solvang, California. We met at AJ Spurs for dinner and a wine tour.

By Chris Espitia



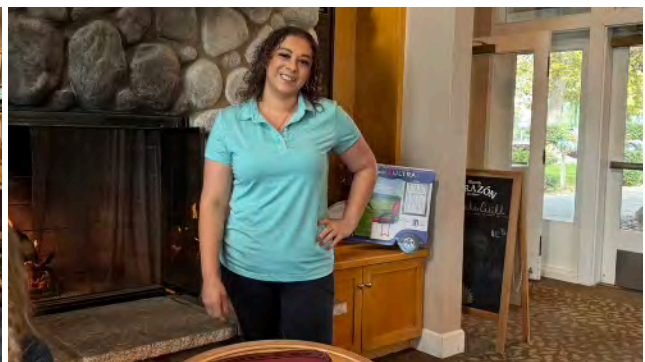
# CORVETTES AND COFFEE

Corvettes and Coffee has become a moderately successful event that we hold every third Wednesday of the month at The Links At Riverlakes Country Club on 5201 Riverlakes Drive. We canceled the April meet up as a result of the Gamblers Classic in Laughlin falling on the same week. However, we will be back on May 20th. Please make an effort to attend as attendance has been dropping recently... probably because of Gambler's Classic or people still working.

We hold this event to have a casual get-together where we can introduce new potential members to our club and basically visit and have a good time over breakfast. We have met a lot of nice new people and some have even joined our club.

Corvettes and Coffee is open to any and all Corvette enthusiasts and owners. Come by and visit and have a nice breakfast served up by the great Erika, the Riverlakes Event Coordinator. Bring your Corvette and park in front of the clubhouse by order of the manager. A good time will be had by all.

By Adrian Medina



# KERN AUTISM NETWORK PARADE

Corvettes of Bakersfield had a very busy day today starting off with the Kern Autism Network Parade and Festival. Ten Corvettes and various other “tin” cars did a parade around Beach Park for the enjoyment of the attendees of the Kern Autism festival. We had a great time in this beautiful weather preparing and being escorted around the park by the California Highway Patrol.

Riding with us in the parade were local entrepreneur, Mr. Dimples, and the Bakersfield Pageant Queens; Ms. Bakersfield Trinity Garcia, Miss Bakersfield Devin Jackson, and Miss Teen Bakersfield Tina Binu. There’s nothing like beauty queens to enhance the beauty of our Corvettes!

At the end of the parade, we shoot on over to Hoagies, a favorite Pismo Beach restaurant located at 1004 19th St. in Bakersfield. Many members ordered the fish and chips and exclaimed how delicious it was.

We got there just before the rush began and had settled in when we began to see a lot of colorfully dressed ladies dressed up to look like Mrs. Roper of the TV show, Three’s Company. They were hilarious to watch and very fun loving. They belong to a couple of groups called the Lemon Drop Divas and Sisters on the Fly. They get together and do a variety of events dressed up as characters such as Helen Roper, pirates, and other characters to raise money for the benefit of the local animal shelters.

They chose one man to represent their husband, Stanley Roper, and our Chris Espitia was that lucky guy. They had a great time playing bingo during their lunch visit.  
By Adrian Medina



# KERN AUTISM NETWORK PARADE



# FIRST FRIDAY AT SALTY'S WITH MARK209

Corvettes of Bakersfield got to enjoy some beautiful country/gospel music at Salty's Barbecue and Catering at the 6801 White Lane location. Mark209 is an award-winning singing quartet from Nashville, Tennessee conducting their Pacific Northwest tour. For the past three years, they have come to Bakersfield and sing their hearts out at Salty's.

We had 12 Corvettes show up from Corvettes of Bakersfield on this beautiful night. What more can you ask for? Beautiful music, great food and beautiful cars. What a night we had.

By Adrian Medina



# RAGGED POINT RUN

I'm looking in the rear view mirror during our Ragged Point Run. It was incredible weather for the first ride of the year. About 60 beautiful Corvettes showed up for the ride to Ragged Point Saturday, February 21st, morning. Groups from Paso Robles and Morro Bay gathered in the Cambria Veterinarian parking lot. It was packed. There were Corvette enthusiasts from all over for the ride. Members of many different groups showed up. Folks from Corvettes of Bakersfield, Central Coast Corvettes, SLO Vettes of San Luis Obispo, Monterey Peninsula Corvette club, NCRS and Solid Axle Corvette club were present for the ride.

The run was wonderful and the views are amazing. The group arrived at the restaurant and parked in a few different places around the restaurant and motel.

After lunch, for those that stayed around, a group picture was taken by Greg Villages of the Central Coast Corvette Club. He is going to send me a link and I will forward it along. Thank you all for coming out today and joining the group for a fun day. I hope to see you at another event soon.

By Harold and Ardith Davis/Photos by Greg Villages



# IN MEMORIAM:

Corvettes of Bakersfield lost two beautiful members in the first five months of this new year. Annette passed away from sepsis at the age of 77 on January 29 and Bruce passed away more recently of cancer on May 5th, 2026. They were both very active members of Corvettes of Bakersfield and will be very sorely missed. May God bless them and their families.

## Annette Elaine Dallons 1948-2026

Annette Dallons passed away on January 29 after a short illness at the age of 77. Annette was born in Madera, but raised in McKinleyville in Northern California. She became a hairdresser and even owned her own hairdressing salon. She moved to Morro Bay, where she became a realtor. After some time, Annette and her then husband moved to Bullhead, Arizona when her husband got sick from agent orange. After her husband passed, she came back to northern California and then later to Bakersfield to live with her daughter. Steve met Annette on an online dating service and subsequently got married. They were only married a little over three years and were very much in love. Our prayers are with Steve with much condolences for his loss.



# IN MEMORIAM:

## Bruce Ketcherside 1951-2026

Bruce will be remembered as a true gentleman, a Cowboy, and a steadfast protector. He carried himself with pride, always in perfectly starched jeans, impeccably clean and organized, and known for his signature mustache. He was a man of quiet strength, integrity, and kindness, who deeply loved his true friends, and neighbors.

Bruce dedicated much of his life to protecting and serving his community. He proudly served with the Delano Police Department and the Kern County Sheriff's Department, where his career spanned many roles including patrol, detective, K9 handler, transportation, Lerdo Jail, and Rural Crime. He ultimately retired as a respected Senior Deputy. Beyond his official duties, Bruce was deeply involved with the Kern County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol and Mounted Posse, further reflecting his love for service and horsemanship. He also contributed his time to the Kern County Housing Authority, Pony Express, and was an active member of Corvettes of Bakersfield.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years Esther Ketcherside; his daughter, Wendy Purdie, her husband Rob Purdie of Texas; his son, Jason Ketcherside of Colorado; and his daughter, Sarah Ketcherside-Elam. He leaves behind a legacy through his cherished grandchildren: MaKenzy Johnson, David Purdie, Madison Ketcherside, Nixyn Elam, Landon Ketcherside, Greyson Jones, and Walker Jones; and great-grandchildren: Bre, Lane, Levi, and Bobbi.



# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

## By Don Allen, NCM Ambassador

**G**reetings everyone. It has been a while since I have provided an update on activities at the National Corvette Museum and I find myself a bit out of practice. I try to provide the latest news on everything Corvette but some of what I write might be viewed through your rear-view mirror. Nevertheless, I will do my best to keep you informed and if I mention something you have already read/heard/seen, please just consider yourself to be an insider and allow the rest of the class to catch up.

### THE COLLECTIONS FACILITY



The National Corvette Museum is expanding. The new 66,000-square-foot Collections facility will serve as the future home for some of the world's most important historic Corvettes, Corvette artifacts, and Corvette preservation efforts. This new expansion is designed to allow the entire collection to be seen by visitors for decades to come. The collection will move in Fall 2026 with access to the public starting in early 2027.

A permanent Donor Wall will be included in the design to recognize those supporters donating \$1000 or more to make this project possible. Several folks have asked me if the design also included tribute bricks and tiles similar to those present at the Museum's main entrance. I posed that very question to my contact at the Museum and was told. "No, that wasn't discussed during the planning and is not included in the plans." The representative thought that because access to the Collections Facility would be limited to escorted tours only, the planners did not see the practicality or popularity of offering the commemorative bricks and tiles. He did say that any amount would certainly be welcomed but only those qualifying for the Donor Wall would be displayed.

I suggested that the NCM is missing out on a significant revenue stream by not offering acknowledgements to supporters who may not be so fortunate to donate \$1000 but still want to make a considerable contribution. Most of the current bricks and tiles vary in levels ranging from \$125 to \$750 which could significantly increase the opportunities to donate. My reasoning was that if someone were to travel to Bowling Green to visit the Museum and surrounding Corvette-related facilities that they would surely want the entire experience. Hopefully the planners will change their minds.



To be a project donor, go to: [Expansion | National Corvette Museum](#)

# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

## New Displays and Exhibits

### America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Meets America's Sports Car

As the nation marks 250 years of independence, the National Corvette Museum invites you to celebrate America250 through the legacy of America's Sports Car. In the Gateway, explore a special display of red, white, and blue Corvettes that through the decades have reflected the innovation, craftsmanship, and spirit that have defined Corvette for generations. This patriotic showcase offers a meaningful way to connect automotive history with America's milestone anniversary during your visit. There you will find interactive exhibits, hands-on, story-rich experiences, and you will be able to capture your visit with iconic backdrops.

### Museum Led Runs, Museum in Motion – National Parks Tour

On September 13-19, 2026, Museum representatives will lead a group of Corvette enthusiasts on a seven-day journey through some beautiful and majestic U.S. National Parks. The group will view the Grand Canyon's South Rim, the sculpted cliffs of Zion, the hoodoos of Bryce Canyon, the red arches of Arches National Park, the engineering marvel of Glen Canyon Dam, the sweeping vistas of Monument Valley, and the remote canyons of Canyonlands. The tour is currently sold out but you can join the waitlist if you are interested. For more info, please contact Melissia at [270-777-4556](tel:270-777-4556) or Maci at [270-467-8804](tel:270-467-8804).

## Driven to Preserve

"Driven to Preserve" is designed to tell the story of Corvette Preservation. This limited-engagement exhibition shifts the focus from showroom shine to the real work of stewardship. Inside the gallery, visitors experience how Corvettes are tracked, documented, stabilized, and interpreted—not just displayed. Every process serves one purpose: protecting both the vehicle and the story it carries. Preservation is a cornerstone in the mission of the National Corvette Museum.



## Raffles and Sweepstakes

Below are all the currently active raffles. For additional information and rules regarding National Corvette Museum raffles including how to order tickets and to view the number of tickets remaining available in real time, go to <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org>. The cars will be raffled off on time regardless if all the tickets are sold. I wish you the best of luck and hope to see photos of you picking up your prize at the Museum.



**2026 Red Mist Corvette Convertible 5/21/2026**  
Price: \$200.00 Tickets: 1500

**2026 Sebring Orange Corvette Coupe 6/18/2026**  
Price: \$150.00 Tickets: 1500



# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

## Corvette Sweepstakes

The NCM Sweepstakes differ from the raffles in that they offer a chance to win a Corvette or opt for a cash alternative, without geographical restrictions. Sweepstakes are regulated by federal law, and you can enter two ways. Donate online, or for free mail-in entry: request a mailer, complete the form, and send it back by the deadline. Each mailer counts for six entries.

### Key Sweepstakes Details:

- Eligibility: Open to anyone 18 or older (except Washington residents).
- Odds: Depend on total entries received; no purchase necessary to win.



The newest Sweepstakes prize is a 2012 ZR1 Coupe like the photo to the left. It is finished in Blade Silver with an Ebony interior and suede microfiber inserts. Powered by a hand-built supercharged 6.2L LS9 V8 producing 638 horsepower, this two-owner ZR1 has just 13,642 miles and includes service records, manuals, and original accessories. Performance highlights include carbon-ceramic brakes, extensive carbon fiber, a polycarbonate hood window, and the 3ZR package. The winner will take delivery on

Corvette Boulevard through the Museum Delivery Experience, which includes Museum membership and a VIP tour.

To improve your chances, you can make a donation ranging from \$25 for 18 entries and up to \$2000 for 4000 entries. Choose your donation level by selecting the entry package that best fits your budget. You can complete the secure checkout and receive an email confirmation with your entry numbers. For more information, go to: [Win Our 2012 Corvette ZR1 Coupe Sweepstakes | National Corvette Museum](#)

## Bowling Green Assembly Plant News Plant Tours

GM has again extended the opportunity to tour the Corvette Assembly Plant for an extra few weeks in February and April. I noticed an announcement on the NCM website that these tours were now available to the general public. Previously, the tours were only available to NCM Members. Again, I am hoping these are baby steps towards expanded opportunities for visitors to see how Corvettes are built in the Bowling Green Assembly Plant. For more info, go to: [Plant Tours - National Corvette Museum](#)



### The Engine Building Experience Returns

Chevrolet is relaunching its Build Your Own Engine Experience that allows Z06, ZR1, and ZR1X buyers to work alongside with GM's master engine builders in the Corvette Assembly Plant's Performance Build Center. Buyers will be able to build their own LT6 or LT7 engines and once completed, that engine will then be installed in the buyer's new Corvette as it goes down the assembly line.

Participants will receive a custom engine plaque, photos from the day, and an exclusive gift that has yet to be revealed. If GM follows past practices, the cost for the experience will be around \$5000. For more, go to: [Engine Build Experience Archives - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

## GM Reveals the Grand Sport. Is This the Swan Song for the C8?

The 2027 Grand Sport is the latest Corvette variant, and it will go on sale with General Motors' next-generation 6.7-liter LS6 V8 engine. It will produce 535 horsepower and 520 pound-feet of torque, which Chevrolet claims is the most torque from a naturally aspirated V8. The Grand Sport includes the wide-body features of the Z06/ZR1 and replaces the E-Ray model line.

As my personal favorite, the Grand Sport slots between the entry-level Stingray and the hotter Z06, offering some of the performance goodies at a more affordable price. Chevrolet also introduced the Grand Sport X, a hybrid version that pairs the LS6 engine with the ZR1X's hybrid powertrain to make 721 hp—more than the Z06. It also replaces the E-Ray.

It will be the final major C8 variant for now. Chevrolet has hinted at offering bespoke commissions and one-off creations, which we might see more of before the C9 arrives. [2027 Corvette Grand Sport: The Last C8 Corvette Model](#)

### Will GM Build the New LS6 Engine?

Not in Bowling Green. Not in Tanawanda. Not in Detroit.

More than 70 years after General Motors workers built the first Corvette in Flint, the city is about to start building the new powertrain for the 2027 Corvette Stingray, Grand Sport and Grand Sport X. A GM spokesperson said the company's next-gen small block V8 -- the LS6 6.7L engine -- is scheduled to begin production at Flint Engine Operations in mid-2026.



In addition to the Corvette connection, the new engine -- with 535 horsepower, 520 lb-ft of torque and 13.0:1 compression -- brings small block production back to Flint. Workers built the first small block V8 here on July 9, 1954, and went on to produce more than 40 million small blocks until production ended in 1999.

The first Corvette rolled off the assembly line at a small production facility located just north of the Flint Assembly Plant on VanSlyke Road on June 30, 1953. Those roadsters were powered by 150-horsepower, six-cylinder engines with three six-draft carburetors and two-speed Powerglide automatic transmissions.

By 1955, the small block engine made its debut as an optional powertrain for the Corvette. "We are incredibly proud to bring the V8 back home to Flint, especially as we begin assembling the new LS6 here," Paul Tanis, Flint Engine plant director, said in a statement released by GM. "This is more than just building an engine -- it's about honoring our heritage and the deep roots of American engineering and innovation that started right here over a century ago." [New GM engine brings back Flint's Corvette-small block connections - mlive.com](#)

### Corvette Ranks Third Overall in List of Top 25 Vehicles with Lowest 5-Year Depreciation

In a year when used car values surged across nearly every segment, one performance car stood out among the trucks, hybrids, and small SUVs dominating the resale charts: the Chevrolet Corvette.

According to [iSeeCars' 2026 depreciation study](#) — an analysis of more than 950,000 five-year-old used vehicles — the C8 Corvette ranks No. 3 in the entire country for value retention. Only two Porsches, the 718 Cayman and the 911, hold their value better. That means the mid-engine Corvette isn't just America's sports car. It's one of the smartest long-term automotive purchases you can make.

# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

Among all vehicles sold in the U.S., the C8 Corvette posts:

- 18.7% average 5-year depreciation
- \$13,365 average loss from MSRP
- Best resale value of any GM vehicle
- Best resale value of any American performance car

In a market where the average vehicle loses 41.8% of its value after five years, the Corvette's 18.7% is nothing short of remarkable. It even outperforms the Toyota Tacoma, Tundra, and 4Runner in percentage terms — trucks long considered the gold standard of resale value. The top 25 vehicles with the lowest depreciation are filled with Porsches, Toyotas, Hondas, hybrids, and small SUVs.

But only one GM vehicle makes the list: the Corvette. Additionally, only two American sports cars make the list: the No. 3 Corvette and the No. 13 Ford Mustang. To see the rest of the list go to: [Corvette Ranks Third Overall in List of Top 25 Vehicles with Lowest 5-Year Depreciation - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

## 2027 Corvette Pricing Released

The base Stingray now starts off at \$73,495. It's worth noting, too, that the Stingray will also get the same LS6 V8 as the new Grand Sport, packing 535 horsepower and 520 lb-ft of torque.

Above the Grand Sport models, the 2027 Corvette Z06 comes in at \$121,395. Respectively, those price hikes are \$1,000 and \$1,700 more than last year. You'll really want to hold onto your wallet when you look at the top end, though...because the ZR1 is now \$197,195 (up \$9,700), while the ZR1X is now \$227,395 (up \$15,200).

Orders for most 2027 Corvette models were scheduled to open on April 16. The Grand Sport X is an exception, however, as orders for *that* model won't open until later this summer.

The 2027 Chevy Corvette Grand Sport enters the lineup, it effectively replaces the E-Ray, which is rolling out of what is now a crowded range of models. As such, it's priced right in that ballpark between the Stingray and Z06. The LS6-powered Grand Sport starts off at \$88,495, and if you want the more powerful (and electrified/all-wheel drive) Grand Sport X, that'll cost you \$112,195. Going for the convertible will set you back another \$7,000 on top of that, while the performance packages range between \$3,500 for a tire/brake upgrade and \$20,695 for the full-blown track package. For more, go to: [2027 Chevrolet Corvette Preview: Specs, Price, Photos, Release Date](#)

## Special Stars & Steel Edition 2026 Corvette ZR1X

General Motors is preparing to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States with a special edition for Corvettes and Chevy trucks called the Stars & Steel Collection. Only 250 examples of each will be produced and no pricing info has been released.



# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

The first special edition of the ZR1X was just sent to Barrett Jackson for auction to benefit the Charity, Tunnels to Towers Foundation. T2T's mission is to provide mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children, building custom smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, and providing housing and services for homeless veterans.

For more than 15 years, Chevrolet has worked with Barrett-Jackson's charity auction program to generate millions in donations for great causes. This auction brings the total amount of money Chevrolet has raised at Barrett-Jackson charity auctions through the sale of eighth-generation Corvettes to \$15.5 million.

Rick Hendrick, chairman and CEO of Hendrick Automotive Group and owner of Hendrick Motorsports bought the first edition for a hammer price of \$2.6 million. Hendrick owns many if not all of first editions of special Corvette models. For more, go to: [1-of-1 2026 Corvette ZR1X raises \\$2.6 million for America's heroes at Barrett-Jackson 2026 Scottsdale Auction - Old Cars Weekly](#)

## Corvette Tidbits

### Federal Trade Commission Issues Final Order Banning GM/OnStar from Selling Your Driver Data

Last year I noted that GM had entered into some contracts with third parties to share drivers' data gathered through the OnStar system who ultimately sold the info to insurance companies and other interested agencies. This had been ongoing for years and without anyone's permission.

A New York Times investigation into the Smart Driver Program revealed the activity which was brought straight to the attention of the Federal Trade Commission. Under a proposed settlement announced by the FTC, GM will be barred from sharing drivers' precise location and behavior data with consumer reporting agencies for the next five years. The order also requires the automaker to obtain explicit, opt in consent before gathering any connected vehicle data.

GM says it has already begun complying with the new requirements. Customers picking up a new GM vehicle are now asked at the dealership whether they want to allow data collection when enrolling in OnStar services. The company notes that the OnStar features still function even if the customer declines.

### The \$229 Kill Switch Every C6-C8 Corvette Owner Should Know About

Car theft isn't what it used to be. Today's thieves aren't smashing windows and hotwiring ignitions—they're walking around with laptops, signal amplifiers, and OBD-II devices that can clone key fobs in seconds. For Corvette owners, especially those living in apartment complexes or homes with shared parking, that reality hits uncomfortably close to home.



The C8 is a technological masterpiece, but that also makes it a high value target. And while GM's factory antitheft systems are solid, modern thieves have become frighteningly good at bypassing them. That's why more and more owners are turning to a clever, inexpensive, and surprisingly simple solution: the [Soler Performance Throttle Controller](#). The star of the show—the feature that's getting the most attention besides the additional performance provided is something Soler calls **Lock Mode**.

# NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM UPDATE

Soler's throttle controller is best known for sharpening throttle response and eliminating the C8's factory lag. But tucked inside the app is a feature that Corvette owners are calling "the smartest antitheft trick nobody talks about." The Lock Mode disables the throttle electronically.

Even if a thief manages to unlock your car, clone your key fob, or even start the engine, the car won't move. The engine will idle normally, but the accelerator pedal becomes a dead stick. No throttle input. No acceleration. No getaway. It's the modern equivalent of a kill switch, but with these major differences:

- There's no wiring to cut
- No switches to hide
- No extra hardware to install
- No subscription fees
- And nothing visible for a thief to find or defeat

To learn more about this unique device and how to get a discount from the retail price, go to: [The \\$229 Kill Switch Every C6-C8 Corvette Owner Should Know About - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle](#)

## Chief Corvette Engineer Crushes the Notion of a Manual Trans in the C8.

At SEMA last year, transmission specialist Tremec revealed a six-speed manual transmission that can be equipped to the Corvette C8. Tremec already manufactures the eight-speed DCT in the C8, so this only raised hopes that a manual Corvette could become a reality.

"Tremec showed something at SEMA last year that I wish they wouldn't have shown. It's not real," said Chief Engineer Tony Roma at a Q&A session held at the Sebring International Raceway. "We don't have any plans to talk about a manual transmission. I love manual transmissions. All I can say is our eight-speed DCT is tremendous. The car is faster and essentially better with the transmission we make."

Roma was answering questions alongside Josh Holder, Vehicle Corvette Chief Engineer, who was completely transparent about why the C8 has no manual. "We are in a for-profit business. We make Corvettes so all you guys can enjoy the affordability and attainability of America's supercar," said Holder. "But one of the things that makes that true is making good business decisions. And, at the end of the seventh generation lifecycle, the penetration rate of manuals was super low. The market was voting with their wallets and we didn't get enough votes."

It couldn't be any clearer than that, so if you want a manual Corvette, it'll have to be one of the previous-generation models. For more, go to: [Corvette C8 Won't Get a Manual—Here's Why - Autoblog](#)



## In Closing:

To learn more about the Museum, it's mission and purpose, upcoming events, exhibits, membership, and to plan your next visit, please contact me directly or visit the NCM website at [www.corvettemuseum.org](http://www.corvettemuseum.org). I look forward to chatting with you at our next meeting. If anyone is interested in being a liaison to the NCM and represent our members, please let any of our Board Members know or see me for the 411.

By Don Allen

# National Street Rod Association Registration Volunteers

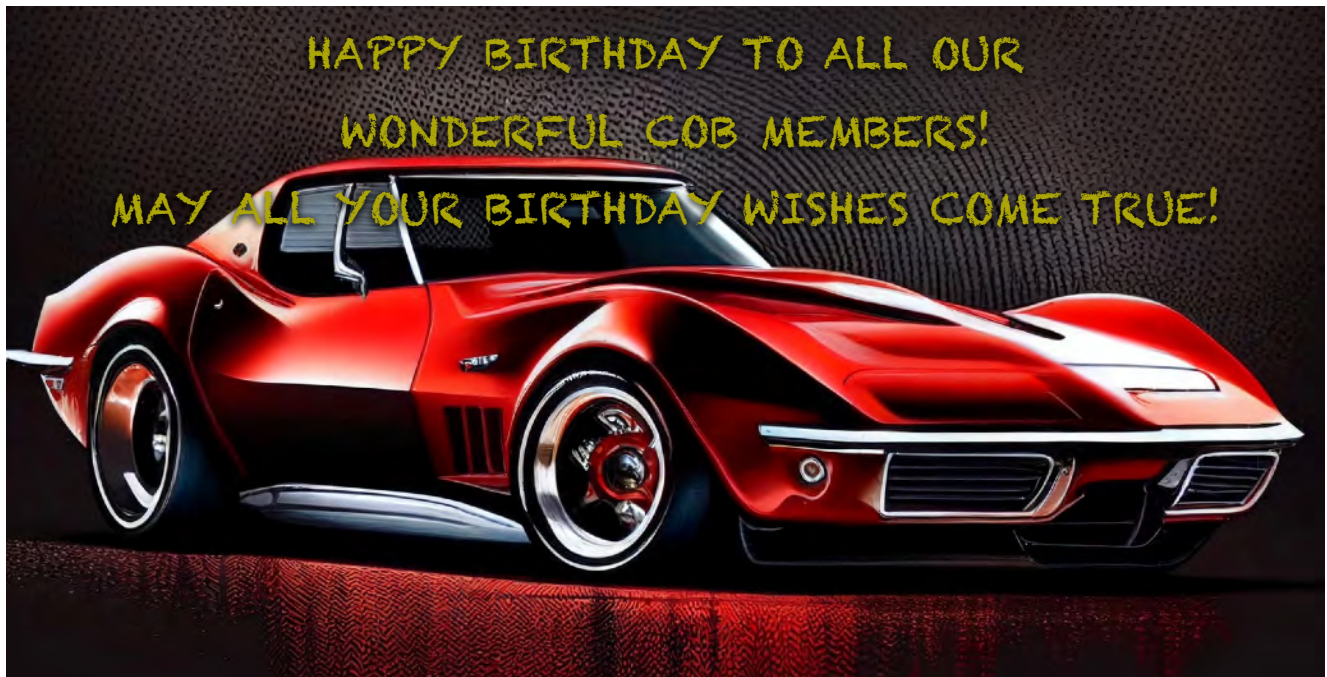
On April 23, we were called upon by Jeff Salter to volunteer to work on the NSRA registration desks being held at the Doubletree Hotel on Rosedale Hwy. Three separate crews worked at passing out registration envelopes and magazines to all the hot rodders who came in for the big National Street Rod Association Hot Rod Nationals car show at the fairgrounds. It's a fun job where we get to meet all the hot rodders and ask them what they're bringing to the car show. A side benefit is a free ticket to the show. We got to see COB member, Angelo Mazzei, and five cars from his collection that he brought over to the show. Angelo won 1st place for his Fire Mist Red 1932 Ford 5 window Coupe. Another big winner was Mitch Townsend with his 1972 Corvette Stingray named "Old' Red". He won the NSRA Safety Representative Pick.

By Adrian Medina





# BIRTHDAYS




May	June	July	August
Jack Sparks. 2	Ken Taylor 3	Adrian Medina 5	Kathy Gallego 2
Janice Dean 4	Geoff King 4	Kristi Townsend 10	Bill Dean 13
Sandy Tabayunda 4	Chris Espitia 6	Jaime Quintana 13	Jeanne Allen 15
Don Wolfe 7	Beverly Hayden 8	Wendy Watson 16	Christine Schwerdetfager 15
Terri Romanoff 15	Linda Jay 9	Berry Stokes 16	Pat Taylor 22
Liz Zaninovich 16	Lisa King 11	Mitch Townsend 19	Sherry McFadden 24
Rod Hayden 17	George Semchak 12	Julie Hayden 20	Sue Pratt 29
Rosa Perez. 24	Joey Estrada. 23	Diane Stokes 22	Linda MacArthur-Thurm 31
		Glenn Dolph 23	
		Steve Taylor 26	
		Esther Ketcherside 27	

# AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP



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  
Deadline ends February 1st, 2026

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## SPONSORS



### 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

# SPONSORS

Please support our event sponsors

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# 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





During our run to Kern River Brewery, we stopped at Riverside Park in Kernville for our group photo.



COB Volunteers for the 2026 Gambler's Classic