

CORVETTES OF BAKERSFIELD

Summer 2026 Issue



1776
2026

250 YEARS OF FREEDOM

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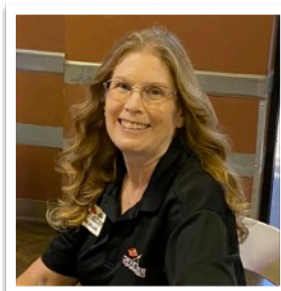
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We've had a long hot summer, but it will soon be coming to an end as we are starting to cool down in the next couple of weeks...ever so slightly. August was a slow time for us as many club members like to travel to get out of the Bakersfield heat. As a result, we decided not to have a meeting during the month of August. We have had, however, a few events to keep us busy such as our Corvettes and Coffee event at the Links at Riverlakes Ranch Clubhouse and a variety of car shows to keep some members busy. More runs and lunches are being planned for the next couple of weeks and months such as runs to the coast and brunch at local restaurants. We also had our all-important elections in July.

A highlight of the summer was a celebration of 250 years of the Independence of the 13 Original Colonies. There is nothing like having the future of Corvette enthusiasts start at a young age, such as the two on the cover of our newsletter. HAPPY 250th TO ALL!!!

Editor: Adrian Medina

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome Corvette enthusiasts to another edition of the Corvettes of Bakersfield's quarterly newsletter. We started this quarter by acknowledging and participating in America's 250th birthday celebration. We, as a nation, have so much to be proud of and we have come so far since the original thirteen colonies were established. Two hundred and fifty might seem like a large number, but when you look at the big picture of the world, we are still a young nation.

As you will see in the following pages, COB participated in the local celebration of America's birthday at the Park at Riverwalk where we showed off America's sports car, the Corvette. It was a beautiful sight with several members sharing their pride and joy. The community got a lot of pleasure from seeing these stunning cars, meeting club members and hoping to win fireworks that we raffled off.

Our organization is very patriotic and proudly so. We wouldn't have our freedoms and rights without the brave and selfless soldiers that fight for our country. Not all of them make it home or survive what life hands them after joining the service. COB recognizes these individuals by supporting Portraits of a Warrior. Sadly, one of our members recently had their son inducted into this gallery. It was an honor for us to attend the ceremony. If you haven't done so, you should check out this exhibit.

Following our Club BBQ in May, several of the members drove out to the Kevin Harvick's Kern Raceway for Military Appreciation Night. Eight COB members donated \$100 each and joined 19 other car enthusiasts to carry one of the 27 portraits from the Portraits of a Warrior Gallery around the track in their vehicles. While solemn, it was an impressive scene.

As president of the Corvettes of Bakersfield for the past two years, I have been very fortunate and grateful to have had a supportive and enthusiastic board of directors to work with. As I start my third, and final term, I am working with some new directors. I am hopeful that the transition will be smooth and rewarding for all. To this end, though, it is important to acknowledge that Corvettes of Bakersfield is not autonomous. It takes the membership to run efficiently. The directors are a guide to the running of the organization, but the members have to be involved, also, to be fun and successful.

I'd like to personally thank Adrian, Don, Danny and others for their contributions to this newsletter. None of us can be at all of the events all the time. Thank you for filling in the gaps and keeping the documentation going. As Fall is upon us and the holidays are quickly approaching, stay safe and cheerful. Corvettes of Bakersfield has a full schedule ahead and I am looking forward to seeing everyone participate. Take care and save the wave!

Sincerely,
Kim Miller/Corvettes of Bakersfield - President



SALTY'S FRIDAY NIGHT CRUISIN'

On May 1st, 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 courtesy of Jeff Salters to sing their hearts out at Salty's. Be sure to catch this concert when they come back...you will thoroughly be entertained.

By Adrian Medina



WAGS AND WHEELS CAR SHOW

Congratulations to COB member, Bill Grafeman for winning the best Modern Muscle Car trophy at the Wags and Wheels Car Show on May 2nd. Several COB members attended this local car show benefiting the City of Bakersfield Animal Care Center. Free animal care, adoptions, services including spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip, and animal care kits were provided along with a marching band and games for the kids. A great way to start the summer.

By Adrian Medina



RIDGE ROUTE RUN CAR SHOW

Corvettes of Bakersfield has done it again! On May 23rd, several members attended the Ridge Route Run Car Show in Frazier Park, sponsored by Mountain Memories Association, and won some first place awards. It was a beautiful day and a good 10° cooler up in the mountains than in Bakersfield with a clear blue sky.

Winners for the best Corvette in the C1 – C3 category were Ed and Linda Combs. Winners for the best Corvette in the C4-C8 category were Dale and Cathy Frye. Ed and Linda had also won an award the previous weekend at the Taft car show for first place in pre-1979 Classics. Congratulations to all!

Bv Adrian Medina



CELEBRATION OF LIFE: BRUCE KETCHERSIDE

Bruce Elden Ketcherside passed away on May 5 at the age of 74. A beautiful memorial ceremony was held at the Kern Law Enforcement Association hall on Pegasus Drive on May 13th with hundreds in attendance. The following was written by Wendy Ketcherside Purdie, and was taken from her Facebook page:

In Loving Memory:

Bruce Elden Ketcherside, 74, of Bakersfield, California, passed away peacefully on May 5, 2026. Born on October 30, 1951, in Porterville, California, Bruce lived a life defined by service, strength, and unwavering devotion to his family.

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.

Outside of his career, Bruce embraced life with passion and enthusiasm. He was a devoted fan of Dodgers baseball, found joy in team penning, and took pride in leather making. But above all else, Bruce's greatest passion was his family. He never missed an opportunity to support his children and grandchildren—whether at horse shows, rodeos, cheer events, softball and baseball games, soccer matches, football games, or through 4H and FFA. He was known as the "BEST Rodeo Queen Dad," to so many and a constant, encouraging presence in every chapter of their lives.

Bruce will be remembered as a true gentleman, 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 friends, and neighbors.

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.

Bruce's life was one of dedication, love, and honor. He didn't simply have these qualities, he exemplified them in the way he lived, loved, and served others. His presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the lives he touched and the family he loved so dearly.

By Wendy Ketcherside Purdie





CELEBRATION OF LIFE: ANNIE BAILEY

The following is a dedication for Annie Bailey written by her granddaughter, Mirisa Mejia. It was taken from her post on Facebook and though it was quite lengthy, I felt that I could not leave anything out. It was Annie Bailey in a nutshell. Services were held at the Canyon Hills Assembly Of God on June 16th. Our sentiments go out to Marissa and her family from all of Annie's friends in Corvettes of Bakersfield.

By Adrian Medina



I need to get this out.

With the absolute saddest heart.

We will now put to rest another loved one this year..too many this year...my Grandma, HooHoo.
Annie Bailey.

She told me she would out live her kids just to be rotten and drive them crazy as long as she could. But after dad, her youngest, died she really went downhill. And I hate it so much. She passed on Thanksgiving, of course, of all days, I think, to be a slight inconvenience like she loved to be..for instance taking a CENTER cut of the pies every year. Now I'm going to do it just to continue driving everyone nuts for you, HooHoo.

She wasn't everyone's cup of tea. She could be loud, make to many jokes, call too many times and talk too long... talk your ear off anywhere she was, and she hoarded a collection of stuff. But never will I ever under any circumstances ever believe she did any of it out of malice or ill intent. She did it to put on smile on people's faces, to make herself have a little joy, and to remind you she's there and she cared and tried to get you to pay attention to it.

She had a house full of "crap"! Load and loads of owls and school busses. Treasures that she collected over the years from all kinds of people..and she could tell you the backstory on 98% of it; if not all of it.

She had WAY to many sodas, snacks and candy in her house too.. because she loved to share with anyone that would come over...friends, workers, gardeners, family, anyone. She had a freezer full of peanut butter ice cream because it was her favorite. But none with "that chocolate crap in it..yuck!" No, just peanut butter.

We would call and message each other every week and often more. She would listen to anything I had to say whether I was sad, mad, sick, scared, silly, or just breathing to each other, she didn't care. She would answer and talk for as long as I wanted and needed. She always answered or called right back. Always!

Growing up she would prank me before I knew what that word meant. She gave the most embarrassing gag gifts to get a rise out of me and make everyone giggle. She would wait til everyone could see, too.

She was so supportive of my random ideas and creation through the years. She was involved in her community. She was always going to church. She did volunteering. I don't care what anyone else has to say or think..She was a good person. She cared more than most people have the capacity for. I love and miss her so much. It hurts. I keep going to call her like I usually do on walks or car rides and she's not there now.

She will never hear how it ends with the mess after my dad passing and his house being squatted in. And I hate that for her. I wanted to give her a happy ending.

I wasn't..and am not.. ready for her to go. I still need her very much. Maybe that's selfish but she was one of my best friends... someone I always reached out to because I knew she was right there.

I loved the way she sang us all 'Happy Birthday'..the full song.
I love the way she would 'blow up' my phone if I was sick or in the hospital or ER.
I loved the way she made the hard days laughable.
I loved the way she loved her kids and how much she talked about her family even if they didn't answer all her calls.

She loved fiercely and I hope she knows how much I loved her back.. how much I needed her.

I'm so thankful for the laughs I have memorized.
For the silly way she talked.
I'm so thankful for the things she taught me.
I'm so thankful I got to watch how loving a person could be..and I cannot wait to annoy my boys every day and 'blow up' their phones just so they know how much I love them too.
I'm so grateful to have known her.

Sincerely... your baby girl.. your granddaughter.

By Mirisa Mejia

COB MAY MEETING AT THE BELL TOWER

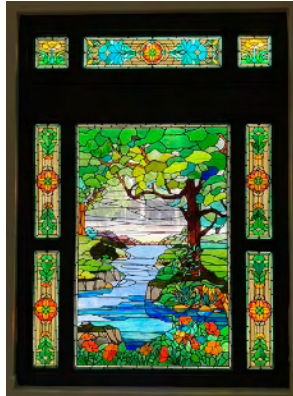
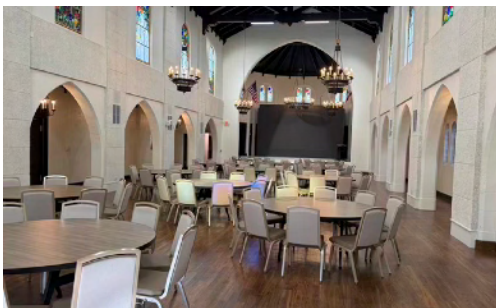
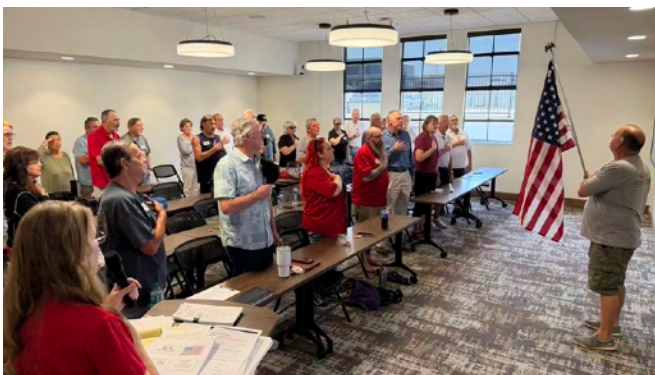
At the May 12 Corvettes of Bakersfield members meeting, we had full house at the temporary new meeting place at the Bell Tower Church on 1200 Truxtun Ave due to parking lot improvements at Salty's Banquet Room. The Bell Tower facility was acquired by Kern County Superintendent of Schools and was renovated as a gorgeous facility for meetings and events. It is the KCSOS' signature professional learning and event center. All the modern amenities were available for presentations and gatherings.

The Bell Tower was built in 1932 as the home of the First Baptist Church until 1977. After 1977 it became a restaurant, law offices, and a bank. It has become a beautiful showcase for meetings and gatherings.

During our meeting we had a spirited discussion concerning our bylaws and choice of candidates for the Board of Directors. In the month of June, the ballots were cast for new board members. Club participation was very strong at this meeting and it is strongly encouraged for all our future meetings.

Discussed, also, was the success of our Gambler's Classic, our club barbecue and a celebration of life for our dearly departed, Bruce Ketcherside. Please check the corvettesofbakersfield.org website Calendar of Events for information of our upcoming events.

By Adrian Medina



MAY CORVETTES AND COFFEE

At the monthly Corvettes and Coffee, held on the third Wednesday in May, we had a small group attend the event...but it was, nonetheless, a fun breakfast and we got to meet a new potential member named Leo. We also had a fun couple from Porterville named Dale and Doris join us. As many may, or may not, know, they were the couple that accidentally locked themselves out of their Corvette at Gambler's Classic upon arrival. They came out of it in great spirits even though their belongings were locked in the Vette overnight at the casino.

Many other regulars were out of town on trips or they were out golfing at the golf course such as 'The Interlopers' Chris and LeRoy. It was a beautiful day and we all had a great time.

By Adrian Medina



COB CLUB BBQ

Twenty-two club members gathered for a wonderful afternoon on May 16th at the beautiful country home of Geoff and Lisa King. The Kings graciously opened their property to the club, providing the perfect setting for a relaxing summer get-together filled with great food, beautiful cars, games, and fellowship.

Guests were welcomed by an impressive lineup of Corvettes spanning several generations, all proudly displayed along the Kings' spacious driveway. The scenic property provided the perfect backdrop for the afternoon, featuring a beautifully landscaped backyard complete with a sparkling pool, relaxing patio areas, and even a putting green.

The weather was pleasant throughout the day, and members stayed comfortable under umbrellas, canopies, and the shade of a magnificent valley oak tree that became a popular gathering spot.

A highlight of the afternoon was the delicious barbecue prepared by Mitch Townsend, who grilled tri tip, chicken, and sausage links to perfection. Club members contributed a wide assortment of tasty side dishes and desserts, creating a meal that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

After lunch, members enjoyed yard games including corn hole, Jenga, and Connect 4, along with plenty of conversation and laughter. Whether admiring the cars, relaxing poolside, or catching up with fellow members, everyone appreciated the warm hospitality and welcoming atmosphere.

A sincere thank you goes out to Geoff and Lisa King for opening their beautiful home to the club and hosting such a fantastic event. By the end of the afternoon, it was clear that everyone had a great time and was already looking forward to the next club gathering.

By Don Allen





RUN TO LA CUESTA RANCH

We had a fun Run on June 13th over to La Cuesta Ranch just outside San Luis Obispo. We had eight Corvettes (4 from Corvettes of Bakersfield and 4 from Street Dreams car club) and one tin car in our group traveling old highway 58 through Carrizo Plain to Hwy 101.

It was a beautiful drive over the hills as was the location for the event. This was a gathering of Corvettes (70 total) from all over the coast and valley converging at the ranch just to hang out, visit with other Corvette owners, have lunch and listen to a band (Talie & the Trouble Makers) playing excellent 70s & 80s rock music. Harold Davis, the promoter of this event, puts on these types of events every few months and they are always top notch and free to all Corvette owners.

La Cuesta Ranch is a historic, family held working cattle ranch located in the Cuesta Canyon area just north of San Luis Obispo. The ranch has been owned and operated by the Miossi family since 1917. The property is known for its rugged oak studded hills and headwaters of San Luis Obispo Creek. Although it is still a working cattle ranch, portions of it are available to the public for hiking and recreational events.

Hopefully the photos will do justice by showing the beautiful cars and scenery.

Photos and Story by Danny Ellison





AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION AT RIVERWALK PARK

On July 3rd, the City of Bakersfield celebrated our nation's 250th anniversary with a patriotic event held at Riverwalk Park. We were invited by Ariel Roberts, HR and admin manager for Dignity Health Arena. Thanks Ariel! On display were touring US 250 bus and trucks full of patriotic displays, games, educational booths, music, and bands. It was very entertaining and patriotic.

We had 10 Corvettes set up for a static display at the entrance of the park showcasing America's premier sports car. Members of Corvettes of Bakersfield all huddled under the shade of our beautiful new canopies shielding us from the 97° sunshine. We enjoyed talking to the onlookers about how much fun it is to drive our Corvettes and the intricacies of our club and the benefits of its membership. We have a couple of new Corvette owners that are interested in joining us. We even got to meet a family traveling from Washington DC through Bakersfield to Los Angeles. How they heard of us, I don't know, but he owns a C7 Corvette.

We were entertained by Curtis Neil, who was dressed up as a 1700s frontiersman. Mr. Neil regaled us with stories and information from the past. He is also a car guy who told us stories of his past vehicles.

We had a drawing for six sets of fireworks to be given away; each valued at over \$100 supplied by the Police Activities League (PAL) fireworks booth. Congratulations to the winners: Yahaira Villagomez, Lindzie Hicks, Kohen Neufeld, Leann du Troit, Adam Clark and Mike Herin. Leann and Adam are two separate winners who just happened to be engaged to be married. Another family was very excited to win the fireworks.

As the hot day wore on, our club attendees dwindle down to six members; Mark and Kelly Buonauro, Adrian and Chris Medina, Jon Cobbs and Mitch Townsend and his family. We stayed for the duration of the show which ended at 10 PM with a magnificent display of fireworks in the grand finale. There was an immense crowd in attendance and I believe a lot of them walked a mile just to come to this event because all roads leading to the park were closed.

Thanks for the water, cookies, fruits and rice crispy treats Mitch, Diane and Kelly. Also, thanks to Diane for the additional photos. HAPPY 250 YEARS, AMERICA!

By Adrian Medina





AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION AT RIVERWALK PARK



FREEDOM 250 PACE CAR

The first-ever Indy car race in Washington DC is a resounding success, delivering capacity crowds exceeding expectations and establishing itself as one of the most successful events in modern INDYCAR history. Worldwide, people tuned in to witness the 250 mile race through the streets of Washington DC making it the most watched non-Indianapolis 500 INDYCAR race since the 1995 season.

Twenty-five cars raced around track for 250 laps at 1.7 miles per lap. Winner of the race was Kyle Kirkwood, leading a record 128 laps and putting him in the record books as the first winner of an INDYCAR race in the streets of Washington DC.

Twin-Turbo Corvette ZR1X Pace Car Nears IndyCar Speeds

This year's official pace car—the flagship Corvette ZR1X—boasts a top speed of 233 mph (375 km/h). That figure puts the street-legal machine nearly on par with the 230 to 240 mph qualifying speeds achieved by the single-seat INDYCAR field on the famous oval.

Powertrain and Performance Specs:

- Engine: 5.5-liter twin-turbocharged V8 producing 1,064 hp (1,079 PS) to the rear wheels.
- Hybrid System: Front-mounted electric motor delivering an additional 186 hp (189 PS).
- Total Output: 1,250 hp (1,267 PS) sent through an all-wheel-drive system.
- Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph in under 2.0 seconds.

Track Capability and Design

While the heavy production car cannot match a lightweight, slick-shod IndyCar around a full lap, its aerodynamic package keeps it planted at speed. Outfitted with the Carbon Aero package—comprising dive planes, underbody strakes, and a prominent rear wing—the ZR1X generates over 1,200 lbs (544 kg) of downforce.

The vehicle features a split livery celebrating America's 250th anniversary, finished in Arctic White on one side and Admiral Blue on the other, paired with stars-and-stripes graphics and a Santorini Blue interior with red accents. Reid Wiseman, NASA Commander of Artemis II spacecraft, piloted the ZR1X to lead the 25-car field to the green flag, showcasing the narrowest straight-line speed gap between pace car and race car in track history.

By Adrian Medina



PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR- TUCKER MCCALED ESTRADA

On July 11, Corvettes of Bakersfield was honored to be invited to participate in the dedication of Tucker McCaleb Estrada's portrait into the Portrait of a Warrior Gallery in downtown Bakersfield. Tucker is the son of Corvettes of Bakersfield members Joey and Audrea Estrada.

The gallery, located at 1925 Eye St., is a memorial art museum featuring portraits of 27 fallen heroes of Kern County. The purpose of the Portrait of a Warrior Gallery is to keep our memories of Kern County's fallen heroes alive through portraits, displays, biographies, education, and ever evolving exhibits. It is a beautiful place to visit and everyone is encouraged to pay a visit to this free gallery.

Tucker Estrada joined the Air Force right out of high school. He died at the age of 21 in Mississippi's Columbus Air Force Base. He was assigned to the 14th Force Support Squadron, 14th Mission Support Group, 14th Flying Training Wing. He was also an active member of the honor guard team and performed 460 retirements, change of commands and military funeral honors.

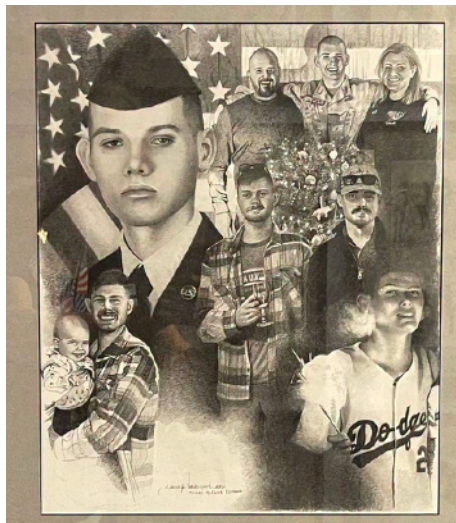
He was a very smart and active young man who had a lot of friends and got along with everybody. He loved sports, cars and especially the Los Angeles Dodgers. The portrait was drawn by artist David J. Vanderpool, a well known and very talented Bakersfield artist. He is famous for his beautifully detailed pencil drawings and has 25 drawings in the gallery. His portrait depicts Tucker in various aspects of his life including his service, family life, friends and sports achievements.

The installation and dedication of the portrait into the Hall of Honor was a beautiful gathering of friends and family honoring Tucker McCaleb Estrada.

Come experience the Portrait of a Warrior Gallery and discover the stories inside. Call 661-479-5095 or go to the website for information and hours. To support or donate to the gallery, visit the website www.kern-warrior.org or visit the gallery to see all the dedicated art and memorabilia honoring our local heroes.

After the ceremony, Corvettes of Bakersfield members drove to Firestone Grill on California Avenue for a wonderful lunch.

By Adrian Medina





PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR FUNDRAISING AT THE KERN COUNTY RACEWAY

Under a bright sun and hot May sky, members of the Corvettes of Bakersfield (COB) gathered at Kevin Harvick's Kern County Raceway for a special event honoring local fallen heroes.

The event featured honor laps and a presentation benefiting The Portrait of a Warrior Gallery located at 1925 Eye Street in Bakersfield. The gallery honors post-9/11 service members from Kern County who made the ultimate sacrifice. Members paid a \$100.00 donation to participate.

Each hero is represented by a portrait, creating a moving tribute to the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

The gallery also features a remarkable room containing more than 82,000 dog tags, representing service members who remain missing in action.

COB members played a special role in the ceremony. The portraits of the fallen heroes were carefully carried in Corvettes as the club completed several parade laps around the raceway.

Following the laps, the Corvettes staged in front of the grandstand, where the portraits were displayed for the crowd as the National Anthem played over the loudspeakers.

It was a powerful and emotional tribute, combining the passion of the Corvette community with a meaningful opportunity to honor Kern County's fallen heroes.

Following the ceremony, many COB members stayed to enjoy the racing action.

The afternoon ended on a high note as 13-year-old Keelan Harvick, son of professional NASCAR racer and race sports broadcaster, Kevin Harvick, went on to win the main event.

It was a memorable day of patriotism, remembrance, and Corvette camaraderie.

By Don Allen



PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR FUNDRAISING AT THE KERN COUNTY RACEWAY cont.



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, 2027

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.

<https://kccd.academicworks.com/opportunities?uri8=5E2X9CX93&term=corvettes+of+bakersfield>

SALTY'S BBQ GRAND OPENING



After opening a small location on Rosedale Highway 13 years ago, Jeff Salters is expanding to a brand new location, his third restaurant, at 3214 Coffee Rd. Jeff is a fellow Corvettes of Bakersfield member and also a benefactor supplying his banquet room on Schirra Ct. for our meetings. He also makes the best barbecue in the county. His tri-tip sandwiches are to die for.



On August 2nd, Pastor Ricky Wilson prayed and blessed the new location, including all the tables and all the customers that were present. Their hope is that the conversations shared around those tables will bring people closer to one another and ultimately closer to God. Jeff Salters and his family have been truly blessed and we pray that these blessings will continue as they welcome everyone to their new home.

Then came the Grand Opening. On August 6, a large group of people started gathering as a large amount of chicken and tri-tip were grilling on the barbecue. Mayor Karen Goh, the Vietnam Rat Pack and many other dignitaries were on hand to cut the ribbon, declaring Salty's Barbecue open. Of course, everybody had to order some of that delicious barbecue and I'm sure they haven't been slow since. Salty's has grown so much that he is having these restaurants run by his two boys Robert and Riley. In time, the little ones will be a part of the business. Be sure to stop by for some great BBQ!

By Adrian Medina, Photos by Irene Randolph and Richard Forester





OBSCURE FACTS OF THE CORVETTE

By Virgil Miller

A few of the most obscure facts about the Corvette's history are broken down below:

No Trunk (1963–1982): For 20 years, every generation featured zero trunk space. Drivers had to store their luggage behind the seats. The trunk finally returned in the C4 generation.



The Illegal Logo: The very first Corvette logo featured the American flag. But US Flag Code prohibits using the flag for advertising. Chevy quickly changed the design to include a bow tie and the French "fleur-de-lis".

A Six-Cylinder Start: Today's cars have powerful V8 engines. But for the first two years of production, the Corvette only came with an average six-cylinder engine. Zora Arkus-Duntov was hired by GM in 1953 and was instrumental in introducing the V8 into the Corvette and ultimately, a mid engine design.



Astronaut Leases: In the 1960s, a local Florida Chevy dealer offered astronauts a special, cheap yearly lease deal. Many astronauts famously drove Corvettes to work at NASA at the cost of only \$1.00 a year.

No 1983 Model Year: General Motors skipped the 1983 model year entirely due to delayed emissions compliance and retooling efforts. They were redesigning the car and instead of a 1983 model, they started producing early 1984 models. However, 1 out of 43 1983 pre-production models survived the crusher to become the rarest Corvette of all.



It Was Named After a Warship: Manufacturers usually spend a lot of time creating names for cars. Taking into account the appearance of the car and its target customer group, the Corvette was named after a three masted naval ship dating back to the 1800s.

OBSCURE FACTS OF THE CORVETTE Cont.

The 1963 Corvette was also the first to feature hideaway headlights. This styling feature was incorporated into the second-generation model by GM design legends Larry Shinoda and Peter Brock. The pop-up headlights became a fixture on all Corvettes until the debut of the sixth-generation Corvette in 2005, which wore fixed headlights.



The C7 Corvette could have been mid-engine: The C6 Corvette ZR1 was the first supercharged Corvette in history and the quickest. From an engineering point of view, it was time to pivot to a mid engine C7 that was dreamt of since the days of Zora Arkus-Duntov. But when GM went into bankruptcy in 2008, Tad Juechter and crew canceled those plans. The C7 is an evolution of the C6 rather than a revolution and it became a way to save Corvette and GM.

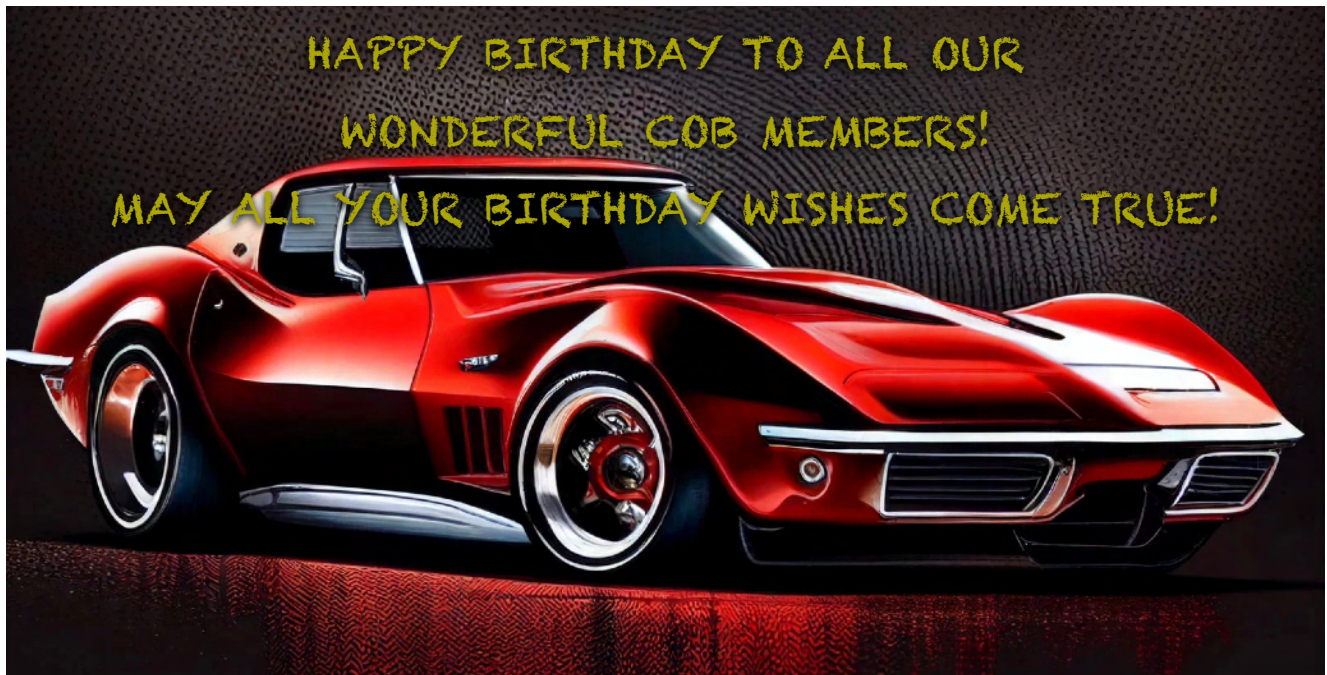


Pioneering the Wrap-around Windshield: Upon pioneering many iconic designs, the Corvette was also the first and the last car to have a true wrap-around windshield. Other cars may have had similar shaped windshields during the 1950s era, but the Corvette windshield had such a dramatic bend that it created distortion and eventually became a safety concern. Amongst other reasons, a weaker roof structure was caused by the wrap-around windshield because of the lack of supporting pillars.



1982 Only Offered an Automatic Corvette: Nothing sounds worse than driving an American V8 where the car shifts for the owner. Rowing gears is what makes a sports car fun and connects man to machine. GM soon realized this was a bad decision and reversed their decision for the new model when it came out in 1984. Having a manual transmission is the only way to really enjoy a Corvette. The new C8 is a dual clutch automatic transmission with paddle shifters.

BIRTHDAYS



2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corvettes of Bakersfield held an online election at the end of May and in-person at our June meeting for our new 2026-2027 Board of Directors. We are eager to get the club moving along with fun events and serious contributions to our charities. We thank those who have stepped up to the plate to run for office and we congratulate the winners. Thank you for participating in the serious work of managing the club's affairs.



Kim Miller
President



Jan Wright
Vice president



Steve Dallons
Treasurer



Mark Pucilowski
Secretary



Diane Stokes
Public Relations



Linda Stacey
Membership



Bill Grafeman
Events



Adrian Medina
Newsletter



Virgil Miller
Web Master



Chris Fleming
Sergeant at Arms



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

Titanium Sponsors



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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



PARTING SHOTS



Corvettes of Bakersfield was honored to participate in America's 250th Birthday Celebration



Corvettes of Bakersfield takes pride in it's patriotism.