

Corvette



Gazette

Our 41st Year



Santa Clarita, California USA

January 2020



Horsepower along the Tail of the Twenty Mule Team Wagons

In this month's issue:

Karen sees a rock, Don's in a bubble, and some girls kick up their heels.

President's Message	Page 2	Taste of the Town	Page 8
Event Calendar	Page 3	Surprise Lunch Run	Page 9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Page 4	Corvettes Gone Hollywood	Page 11
Meeting Minutes	Page 5	Board Member Contact	Page 13
Quartermaster's Corner	Page 6	Vette Vittles	Page 14
Flight Deck Run	Page 7	The Editors Desk	Page 15

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From the Driver's Seat

Mike Woodings
January 2020 President's Message



20-20 is wonderful eyesight and I hope 2020 is an equally wonderful year. Our first month of the year is history and was a great start for the new year. Would-be fighter pilots took to the “skies” on January 11th at FlightDeck in Anaheim in authentic military flight simulators in our first January event. Just five days later, we gathered at the Backwoods Inn for Taste of the Town with an excellent turn-out. Then on the 25th, we saw twenty-two Corvettes roll into the Walmart lot for a Mystery Run. Our destination turned out to be Don Gus Mexican Restaurant in Lancaster, by way of San Francisquito Canyon into the Antelope Valley for lunch. This was not a drive and eat event by any means though. Following our tacos and tostadas, the run continued north on CA-14 to Red Rock Canyon for a photo-op with scenic desert cliffs, buttes and spectacular rock formations as a backdrop.

Yes, January was a great start for 2020 with eleven months remaining. Being a club member is an honor, but being a club member who participates in the events planned by our activities team takes it up a notch. If you haven't been on a run in a while, check out the Three Months at a Glance and put some runs on your calendar.

Our annual picnic is not that far off, coming up in June. Our spot at Steckle Park in Santa Paula has been reserved and planning is about to begin. The picnic is a benefit of membership and we are looking forward to making it a success again this year, especially with your help when called on by our organizers.

Even though 2020 has just begun, we are over half-way through our 2019 – 2020 club year, ending on June 30th. That means a couple things. One is dues payment to continue your membership. The other matter is board elections. Now is the time to consider whether you would like to be considered for a board position. I believe our current board of directors is doing an excellent job and I hope you do as well. Be ready to answer the call!

February, then, is now here. It will definitely not be as depicted in Groundhog Day. We will have a “Valentine's Day Poker Run” on the 15th to parts unknown. Then on the 22nd, we will travel south to the Automobile Driving Museum in El Segundo with over 130 vintage, antique and muscle cars to enjoy followed up by lunch at Rock & Brews on Main Street.

Yes, February is here and there are some great club events to put on your calendar, but hey...don't forget your Valentine!

February Events at a Glance

Be sure to check the website for schedule updates and event details

Business Meeting

1st Thursday of each Month

Social Hour @ 6:00 p.m. Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

Next Business Meeting, Feb 6th

Vincenzo's Pizza
24504 Lyons Avenue, Newhall



Social Gathering

3rd Thursday of each Month

Begins @ 6:00 p.m.

Next Social Gathering Feb 20th

Mama's Table
23340 Cinema Drive, Santa Clarita



February Schedule:

- **6th – General Meeting**, Vincenzo's Newhall Pizza
- **15th – Valentine's Day (morning) Poker Run**
Queen of Hearts Poker Run /w lunch at Route 66 – Details to follow
- **20th – Taste of the Town**, Mama's Table
6p, 23340 Cinema Drive, Santa Clarita.
- **22ND – Muscle Car Show and Lunch**, Auto Driving Museum, El Segundo
8:45a sign waiver at Outback/Chuy's lot. 9:15a departure.

A Peek at March:

- **5th – General Meeting**, Vincenzo's Newhall Pizza
- **14th – A Scenic, Day-Trip to Historic Kernville**
8:30a sign waivers at Kohls/McDonalds, 9a departure.
- **19th – Taste of the Town**, Black Bear Dinner
6p, 23626 Valencia Blvd. Santa Clarita.
- **28th – Santa Anita Park /w Events and Lunch**
10a sign waiver at Outback/Chuy's lot. 10:30a departure.

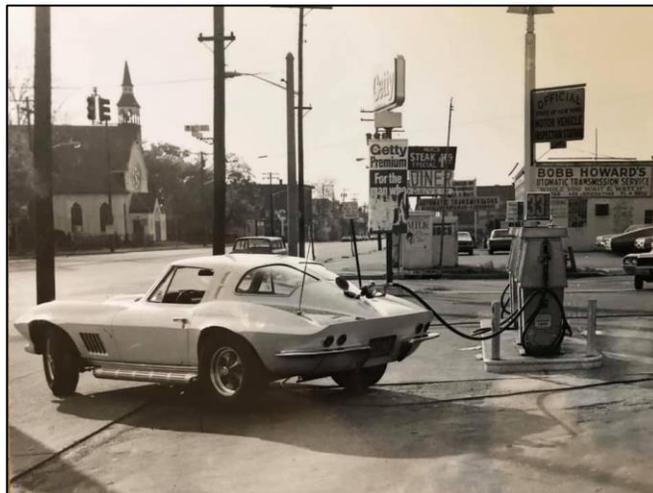
Member Celebrations...

Birthday Wishes and Anniversary Cheers for February

Patt Wilkinson	Feb 4	Di Orio	February 14, 2015
Debi Clarkson	Feb 6	Negri	February 16, 1974
Linda Butler	Feb 6	Miller	February 26, 1992
Mike Salmen	Feb 9		
Rattiporn Miller	Feb 9		
Cayce Culbertson	Feb 19		
Dave Jewett	Feb 20		
Mike Reader	Feb 22		
Jo Ayers	Feb 25		
Miron Kalebjian	Feb 25		
Elke Couples	Feb 26		
Dan Stern	Feb 26		
Kat Culbertson	Feb 26		
Steve Turkheimer	Feb 27		



Note: Please let us know if your name has been missed Your special day is important, and our roster may not have all the correct information



Things Remembered

the MINUTES

Recorded by Dan Clarkson, Secretary
January 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by club president Mike Woodings. He wished all members a Happy New Year, followed by the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer Elke gave an in-depth review of the club's considerable December financial transactions. All agreed it was money well spent.

President Mike thanked those who drove their Corvettes in the rain to support the Sheriff's toy drive. The food bank collection went well. He solicited volunteers to plan and execute the June picnic and the October car show.

Membership Judy welcomed some guests, all from Santa Clarita. First were Dennis and Leslie Monden. They recently bought their first Corvette, a 2006 red C6. Second was Jim Smith, an eight time Corvette owner who recently bought a 2019 red C7. The club stays at 99 members and 17 associates.

Activities Donna was next. The JPL visit remains in work. Many events are upcoming and all are on the website. There will be no more paper versions of the three months at a glance. Get your updates through the website and email.

Quartermaster Judy discussed her inventory and solicited suggestions and requirements from the membership, and Scott reported the Corvette Gazette ready to read.

Comms Steve ran a slide show of our recent trips during the social hour. He confirmed that the website is current and that an email with the latest schedule will be out tomorrow.

The 50/50 raffle prize of \$122 went to Peter DiOrio. Pauline Bultman would have won the Badge It Or Lose It \$40 had she been in attendance and with her badge.

Car Talk.

Brian de Avila said that losing his car fob was an expensive lesson.

Jim Watkinson told of rebuilding a 1994 C4 and offered his experience as a source of parts knowledge and local shops.

Following birthdays and anniversaries the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER



Quatermaster
Judy Turkheimer

It's a new year, so how about something for your
sweetheart!

Judy will have a selection of items just in time for Valentine's Day
at the February 6th general meeting!

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

The Corvette Kiosk is set up at the general meetings so you can buy authentic
SCVCC Corvette gear. Accept no imitations!

Judy is also available at quatermaster@scvcc.org

Flight Deck Simulation Center

Anaheim, CA.

Saturday, January 11th

“There’s no reason to become alarmed, and we hope you’ll enjoy the rest of your flight. By the way, is there anyone on board who knows how to fly a plane?”

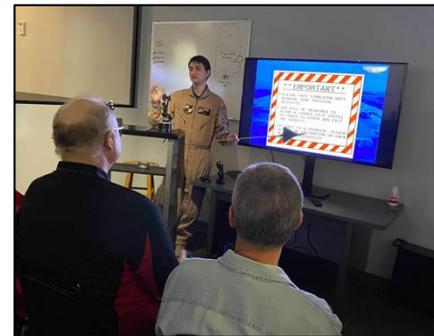
—Elaine Dickenson, from the movie *Airplane*



It was Saturday afternoon when the Santa Clarita Corvette Airwing responded to reports of Bogeys in the skies over Anaheim, and the promise of a fun and unique adventure.



Once the squadron of Corvettes arrived, the pilots and their crews gathered in the officers’ lounge and briefing room where they were given their mission...defend Disneyland airspace!



Following a mandatory ground school, the pilots put on their zoom-suits, cool-looking headsets, and their best Captain Kirk personalities. Once briefed as part of the Great Pumpkin’s battle plan, they climbed into their E-Ticket rides, the F-16 Viper simulators, and prepared for takeoff.



With the adventure about to begin, and clearance from the tower, they spooled-up their engines and launched their lawn darts into the clear blue skies over Space Mountain.

With the sortie underway, it wasn’t long before they had bandits in their sights, and the dog fight commenced.

Shortly after there was a roar and thunder that men have never heard, and it was the scream and the sound of a big war bird!



Back on the ground, the flight crews witnessed all of the live action



feats of aviation bravery via the wall of flight monitors. They watched while the flying aces made short work of the invading MiG’s as they fired once, and then fired twice, and the Bloody Red Baron went spinning out of sight! Once again leaving Anaheim and Adventureland safe for all the good citizens.

– *Snoopy vs. the Red Baron, The Royal Guardsmen, 1966. Ha! Bravo Zulu, Top Guns!*

Taste of the Town

Backwoods Inn, Canyon Country

Thursday, January 16th

By Mike Woodings

Winter ideally brings us in Southern California some much needed rain and one of those wet days happened to occur on January 16th, the day of our first Taste of the Town of the new year. I was anxious to attend and have a good meal at the Backwoods Inn on Sierra Highway in Canyon Country, finally back from a bout with a virus. Steak instead of chicken soup was the order of the day.

I rolled into the Backwoods Inn lot at the appointed hour expecting to find it full of Corvettes. I saw just one. I thought maybe attendance was down due to the weather or maybe others had my virus. Steak was still calling so I went in and asked where the Corvette club was meeting, directed to the back room. I was surprised to find the room filled with our members, who were busy enjoying one another's company and preparing to order. Like me, everyone apparently didn't want to wash their Vette on Friday and also drove the "tin-can".



I have to give a shout out to prospective members Jim and Patt Watkinson for acknowledging that Corvettes have wipers and using his to wave the Corvette colors at our social event.

The Backwoods Inn says it has the "Best Steak in the book", and

it's "Where the Locals Eat". I tend to agree. The restaurant has been a favorite in our community since its opening in 1968 and I must say, my steak was excellent.

Did you know that the Backwoods Inn rakes the sawdust on the floor every morning and it is changed once a week on Sunday? Good to know I suppose. Our Taste of the Town was another success and thanks to our organizers and attendees for making our night out a good one. And, thanks too to the Backwoods Inn staff for taking good care of us.

Taste of the Town on February 20th will be at Mama's Table on Cinema Drive. See you there...in your Corvette!



Surprise Lunch/Canyon Run

Santa Clarita to Lancaster

Saturday, January 25th

Photos by Mark Ware, Karen Jewett, Scot Gregory

It was a perfect Saturday morning when a large contingent of Corvettes gathered in the unusually warm January sunshine to prepare for some fun and scenic canyon driving. We were ready to embark on a trip to



an unknown lunch destination, and alas, we were not disappointed – with either the drive or the lunch spot!



The San Francisquito Canyon was at the core of our trip, and allowing the historic, El Camino Viejo offer to its curves and straightaways, made our Corvettes feel right at home. After passing through the communities of Green Valley and Elizabeth Lake, we followed our leader as we pointed our trusty steeds east until we rolled into the parking lot of the local mom-and-pop restaurant of Don Gus.



Our group descended on the small, family-owned establishment like a herd of hungry wildebeests. But the crowd was quickly appeased with warm chips, fresh salsa, and spicy bean dip, which held us over until the colorful and aromatic entrees of tacos, enchiladas, and chili rellenos, arrived at the tables.



With lunch underway, we learned there was yet another destination included in the day's events.

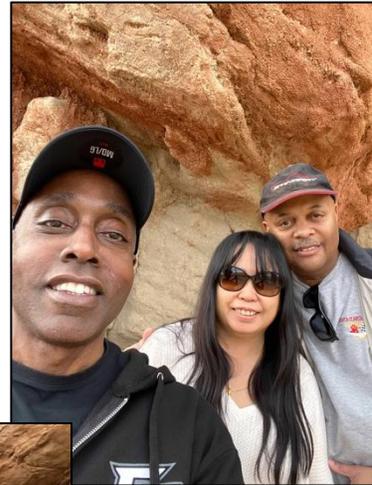
Trivia Q: How many remember the TV series, *Death Valley Days*, co-starring Ronald Reagan, and produced by Gene Autry? Good Times!

I ask, because for those that could continue on, there was a run out to the desert cliffs of the beautiful Red Rock State Park for a photo-op and sightseeing. This is an area steeped in history, including the legendary twenty-mule team wagons that hauled borax from Death

Valley in the late 1800's, to the railhead in Mojave.

This was a fun day, and our hats are off once again to the activities committee for another well planned, and well-organized club event. If you are not regularly attending these events, we

encourage you to do so, and we will look forward to seeing you next month for both the Valentine's Day poker run, and the driving museum in El Segundo!



Yup, Its still winter somewhere...





It's Oscar time again, and in honor of this auspicious event, we are going to take another look back at one of the Corvettes that made it to the silver screen – or in this case, the TV screen.

Columbo – 1974

Publish or Perish
Season 3, Episode 5

This Corvette sighting takes us to the streets of West Hollywood, where Peter Falk as the legendary Lt. Columbo, is investigating the murder of a bestselling romance author who was killed after telling his longtime publisher that he has decided to change publishing houses.

In this scene Columbo arrives at the trendy, Chasen's Steak House, which was a real restaurant- not a movie set, located at the corner of Doheny and Beverly Boulevard in West Hollywood, to talk to some witnesses over lunch.



Our Corvette's cameo appearance comes just after Columbo pulls to the curb in front of Chasen's in his beat-up Peugeot, convertible. A valet is standing there, but as Columbo gets out of the car, the valet hurries past him to assist a young woman who has pulled up behind Columbo in her dark brown Corvette, sans roof panel. The valet opens the car door and helps her out, and then hands her a valet parking check. Meanwhile, Lt. Columbo who is watching all this, asks the valet, "Excuse me, don't I need a parking check?" The valet who is getting into the Corvette, replies pointedly, "Mister, I'll remember your car."

After the Corvette clip, the scene continues inside the upscale restaurant where Columbo is clearly out of place and is unable to pronounce most of the items on the menu. So, in classic Columbo fashion he orders a bowl of Chili, telling the waiter, "With or without beans, either way it doesn't really matter," adding, "and some crackers." The befuddled waiter turns to the other guests at the table for guidance, and is told by one of the regulars, "Ask Connie (presumably the Chef) to see what he can do for our friend."



In exactly seven seconds of screen time, the bowl of chili arrives at the table, and Columbo tells the waiter, "And some ketchup and crackers, saltines if he has them." Then, after he takes a few bites, he remarks, "This chili is good, I'll tell you that."

The irony here in fun-fact #1, is that Chasen's, a legendary hang-out for the Hollywood A-listers in the 1970's, was renowned for their chili.

Fun-fact #2, the restaurant was only ten minutes from actor Peter Falk's Beverly Hills home, and he himself was a frequent guest.



Fun-fact #3, in the continuation of this scene, the frugal Lieutenant receives the bill for his bowl of chili, and is astounded that it costs \$6.00! Although reasonable by today's standards, in 1974 that would be equivalent to \$27.00 after adjusting for inflation.

Fun-fact #4- Some years ago, I had the privilege of meeting Peter Falk at a live studio session, and he said then he really did like chili, that wasn't just some staff writer's character quirk.

Fun Fact #5- Chasen's Steak House closed its doors in 1995, and the building was bought by the upscale grocery chain, Bristol Farms. During the demolition of the building, they preserved the Beverly Boulevard façade, as seen in the original exterior shots above. Additionally, once inside the grocery store, the designers kept several of the original Chasen's booths, wall photo's, and wood paneling, that is now in use as part of their fresh food dining area.

The filming location at Bristol Farms as seen today



Fun-Fact #6- For the police fans in the crowd, this episode has Columbo telling the book publisher that he has colleague down at the department who is a bestselling author. This comment is in reference to Joseph Wambaugh, the LAPD sergeant famous for his 1970's police novels, and co-creator of the TV drama, Police Story, which aired alongside the Columbo series on NBC.

Anyway, I know this was a long way to go for a few moments of Corvette screen time, but the point here is that they could have used any number of exotic or luxury cars to denote the trendy, upscale nature of the restaurant, but they choose a Corvette. Booyah Baby!

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VETTE VITTLES

For connoisseurs of fast cars and fine food

These sweet Valentine's Day Whoopie Pies will be the perfect finish to a special day. Even Cupid can't resist this treat!

Chocolate Chip Red Velvet Whoopie Pies

Get it Together

- 1 package red velvet cake mix (regular size)
- 3 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

FILLING:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup (6 ounces) miniature semisweet chocolate chips



Make it Happen

- Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, eggs, oil and extract; beat on low speed 30 seconds. Beat on medium 2 minutes.
- Cut a 1/2-in. hole in the tip of a pastry bag or in a corner of a food-safe plastic bag. Transfer dough to bag. Pipe 1-1/2x1-in. hearts onto parchment paper-lined baking sheets, spacing hearts 1 in. apart.
- Bake until edges are set, 6-8 minutes. Cool on pans 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.
- For filling, in a large bowl, beat cream cheese and butter until blended. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Stir in chocolate chips. Spread filling on bottoms of half of the cookies. Top with remaining cookies. Refrigerate leftovers.

The Editors Desk

By Scott Gregory

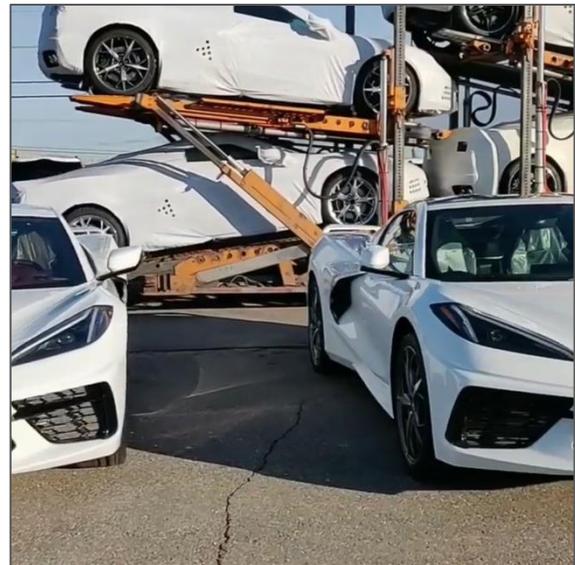


It's February, and some important things are happening. First, the Super Bowl was played this past weekend, and once again a team from the U.S. was crowned World Champion! An impressive record indeed when you realize that an American team has won the coveted world title every year since 1967!

But this is akin to the fact that since 1952, the Miss Universe Pageant has been won by an earthling... Now I'm not trying to start any trouble here, but the universe is a big place, so maybe someone should be looking into this?

However, as socially important as these subjects are, there is something far more important taking place.

In the far-off land of Bowling Green, the production of C8 Corvettes is actually underway! Some alert observers have seen truck-loads of shrink-wrapped C8's rolling out of the assembly plant. These are presumably what the factory calls Captured Test Fleet vehicles which are part of the pre-customer cars. These CTF cars go out to select dealers, high-end collectors, and aftermarket parts companies who will begin making all the fun, bolt-on accessories.



But word from inside the ol' Keebler tree where the elves actually build the Corvettes, has confirmed that customer-ordered C8's are officially rolling off the assembly line. GM has even put on a second shift to help ramp-up full production. So, it looks like some new, bakery-fresh, C8's are nearing ready to roll out to their new forever homes!



Anyway, that's just my perspective. But, please remember this is your newsletter, so feel free reach out to us at newsletter@scvcc.org.

Scott Gregory **Newsletter Editor**

- Ya gotta love the irony of a generation of kids who were raised making prank phone calls, only to now be annoyed by non-stop robo-calls...