

INSIDE: SWIM PARTY, VETTE-O-RAMA, HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLORADO ROAD TRIP, PART 1

# FIRST CLASS GLASS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SANTA CLARA CORVETTES



JULY 2017





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# President - Stuart Calhoon From The Driver's Seat



As I write this, I'm on the big **Atkinson-** led Corvette road trip for 2017. We're currently in **Colorado**, where the mountains are high, the scenery is jaw-dropping, and the roads are -- well -- the roads are great Corvette roads. No other way to put it.

This particular tour consists of 26 Corvettes and 48 people -- the largest one **Liz** and I have ever been on. It's running from June 11 - 28 -- about 2-1/2 weeks. When 26 Corvettes pull into a small town, we make their day. Instant car show. We watch as many people get their pictures taken standing next to (or sitting in) our cars. We get requests for rides (or burn-outs). Or when even 2 or 3 of us pull into a scenic overlook in a National Park, a tour bus might pull in and disgorge a load of foreigners who are fascinated by our cars. It's like they're ignoring the beauty of nature around them and drooling over our cars. By the time we get back, we'll have all put over 4,000 miles on our cars, and we'll all have a bunch of great memories.

These tours are one of the big perks of belonging to **Santa Clara Corvettes**. **Yolanda Atkinson** does an amazing job of planning these trips (with a little help from **Jack**) -- from the route with scenic roads, to hotel reservations for everybody every night, and

restaurant reservations for practically every meal (try finding restaurants that will accept 48 people, and give them a separate room or section). Yolanda also negotiates for discounted rates, at which she is very good.

So not only do they plan these trips to perfection, they provide maps, guide books, itineraries, and even commemorative T-shirts for each tour. And the cost? Yolanda and Jack use their status as wholesale agents to get us good rates, and do not charge members one cent. They pass all the discounted rates directly on to those of us on the tour. So while any 4,000-mile trip is going to be pricey, Yolanda and Jack keep the expenses down to a minimum.

There is a limit to how many cars and people can go on one tour, but the Atkinson's do their best to accommodate all who want to go. I highly encourage anyone interested in this type of tour to sign up for the next one. You won't have more fun anywhere else, and you'll forge strong friendships as you get to know your traveling companions

*Stuart*



## Cover Car

While many of the club members were off to Colorado, your intrepid editor and his lovely wife, **Wendy**, were on their annual vacation to **North Lake Tahoe**. Every year we try to find something new to do, and this year we spent our first day at the **National Automobile Museum in Reno**. You may also know this as the **Harrah's Museum**. It was a very slow day and no crowds at all so we were free to get up close and take a lot of photos. The museum is very impressive with its collection of vintage cars and the themed "street scenes" representing the different decades. Our favorite cars were **John Wayne's 1953 Corvette (#51)**, the historic **Thomas Flyer** that won the **New York to Paris rally** in 1908, and the **Jerari** - a banal 1977 **Jeep Wagoneer** into which Bill Harrah had a V-12 **Ferrari** motor fitted!

## 1953 "John Wayne" Chevrolet *First year of production for Corvette*

Model:	Corvette 2934
Body Style:	Convertible
Built By:	Chevrolet Motor Division General Motors Corporation Detroit, Michigan
Price When New:	\$3,523
Engine:	Overhead valve (OHV), 6 cylinder, 150 hp
Bore:	3 9/16"
Stroke:	3 15/16"
Displacement:	235.5 Cu. In.

This Corvette was the 51st built and was purchased new in October 1953 by movie star John Wayne.

During WWII, servicemen had enjoyed European sports cars, which created a demand for an American-built sports car in the exuberance of postwar America.

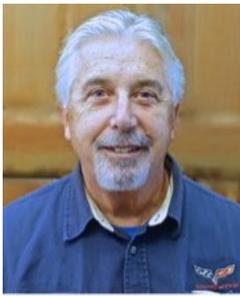
Chevrolet stepped up and built the first Corvette as a "dream car" for the New York City Motorama in January 1953. It created such tremendous interest that Chevrolet put it into production in June, probably a new-model introduction record. To speed up delivery and save the cost of metal dies for sheet metal bodies, bodies were made of reinforced fiberglass, a first for production cars.

The 1953 Corvettes had 6-cylinder engines and automatic transmissions that did not sell well with sports car enthusiasts and approximately 300 were produced. As performance and handling improved in subsequent models, Corvette was established as the only true American-built sports car.

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# Welcome!

## Cliff Martin - Membership Director

Hey club members, writing this report while in **Moab, Utah**; spend three days here and just having a great time. I believe we have 27 Vettes and maybe 40 club members. We will be leaving here shortly and headed off to **Gateway, Colorado**; only a 130 mile cruise. From the start of this journey from my house in **Sunnyvale** to Moab, I have logged about 1350 miles with a couple of thousand wonderful miles to go.

And what a journey it's been; somewhere in **Cedar City, Utah** I picked a nail in my right rear tire. While leaving **Bryce** and headed to **Zion National Park**, I noticed the low tire pressure on my dash. We were able to find a gas station, filled the tire and off again. The problem was that I had to continually keep refilling that tire. Soooo, once in Moab I was able to find a tire shop to get a fix; the next challenge, they had never placed a tire on a Z06. Well about three hours later I was back on the road....Whew! Not being discouraged I am ready to charge on.

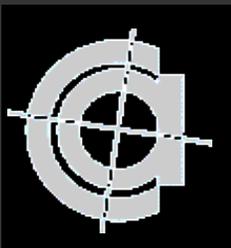
Anyone who has not been on a **Jack and Yolanda** excursion I would encourage you to sign-up. You will truly enjoy the ride; so many beautiful sites to see while enjoying the

friendship of fellow club members. If you have ever thought that you would enjoy driving around our beautiful country while visiting the beauty and wonder mother nature has to offer; don't hesitate, place your name on list next time they have a trip planned. This was my first time and what a joy it's been; Jack and Yolanda have everything so organized and so well planned out; you will truly enjoy the run and hey you get to drive your Vette throughout America! So much more to share but Yolanda is blowing the whistle, must be time to leave. Thanks Jack and Yolanda for all you do for **Santa Clara Corvettes**.

Ok, membership stats...We currently have 209 members, 136 memberships (63 individuals and 73 Family). Remember club members we need your help to allow our club to function and continue to offer members opportunities to enjoy the many activities SCC has to offer. So do your part, get involved; seek out opportunities to place your name on the various sign-up sheets and help SCC to be the outstanding Vette club we all enjoy. Our success is based on the strength of our Membership.

Enjoy the ride...

*Cliff*



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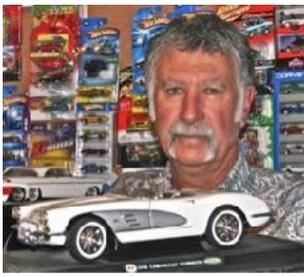


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# Social Directors Keith Mendia & David Wilson



We hope you enjoyed our small intimate group of 16 at the TGIT, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Grill'em Sports Bar in Campbell. While a large number of our members were off on the *Plains, a Train & Automobiles Road Trip* led by Jack and Yolanda Atkinson, the rest enjoyed a beautiful covered patio, some great happy hour beverages and food with a very relaxed setting. This was another good find on our TGIT searches and I am sure many members will chose to go back there again. You can grill your burger or steak yourself if you so chose.

July has 2 big Social Events on the calendar. Our Annual SCC Picnic is Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at Hellyer Park which is right off 101 in San Jose. We have about 70 members signed up already and we usually have over 100 attend. Cost is \$10/member (refunded when you arrive = FREE) and \$25 for non members. BBQ Rib-eye steaks, chicken and loads of salads and desserts are featured. Bring your own adult beverage or enjoy the soda and water which are also provided. This is a new venue for our picnic and I think you will really like it. Look for the Buena Vista Group Site at the south part of the park. Plenty of parking (\$6/car) so bring your Vette.

SCC Night at the San Jose Giants will be Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at SJ Municipal Stadium, 588 E. Alma Ave. San Jose. Tail-gate party begins at 5 pm and the game starts at 7pm. Cost is \$15/person and includes the Tail-gate Party and General Admission. Parking is \$10/car which is extra and we recommend NOT bringing your Corvette. This is a great event to bring the whole family and neighbors. The San Jose Giants are the farm club of the SF Giants and have a wealth of talented young players. Come see hometown baseball at its best.

Both the Picnic and SCC Night at SJ Giants require that you sign-up and prepay so we have the right number of tickets and food ordered. See Keith or David to get started. Complete information on all Social Events can be found on the SCC website calendar.



Let' go Agitate some Asphalt !!!!

If you missed this year's pool party on June 3rd, you missed out! First off, I'd like to give a big thanks to Andy and Scarlett for opening their beautiful home to the club once again this year. If you haven't been to their house, they have a great setup

for this event – lots of outdoor deck space and seating. They just completed a remodel of their pool and we were



happy to help them break in the new deck and hot tub! Our members relished the sunny weather while lounging around, swimming in the pool, and relaxing in the hot tub. A delicious catered barbecue lunch and sides was enjoyed by all. I personally look forward to this event every year because it's a great way to relax and hang out with the members and this year was no exception!



Another event I'm especially looking forward to is our July TGIT. It will be held at Ludwig's German Table in San Jose on Thursday, July 20th. As usual, the fun starts at 4pm. Ludwig's has a great outdoor beer garden with family-style bench seating. Their food is authentic and their beer is cold – and available in a multitude of sizes from a half liter to a two liter boot! There is a public parking lot right across the street from the restaurant on the corner of N 2nd Street and Devine Street, which charges a daily rate of \$6. Additionally there are some street parking and metered parking. Looking forward to seeing a great turnout for this event!

Keith

David



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**THANK  
GOD IT'S  
THURSDAY!**

A fun and relaxing visit to the Grill'Em Steakhouse and Bar in Campbell on June 15th.



Photos by Phil Moser

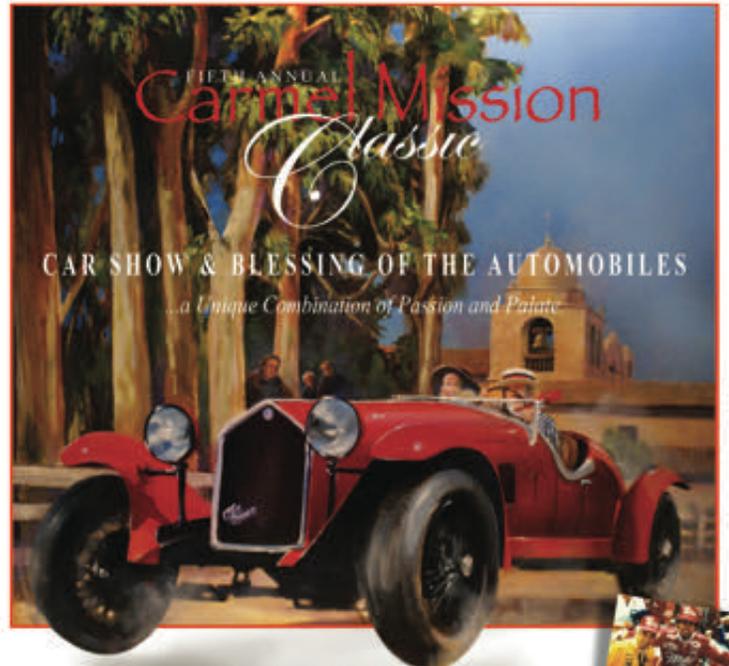
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# Chasing Ghosts at Thunderhill

Stuart Calhoun

I spent two days at **Thunderhill Raceway**, first on May 11 at the **Hooked on Corvettes** event, and then the next day, May 12, which was a regular **Hooked-on-Driving** event. This was really a “get serious” test session for me, as I wanted to know how fast my car could go in fairly stock condition (with race tires).

So I put on new **Hoosier R7**'s (great track tires) which were mounted on a new set of **Forgeline** wheels (18 x 11, 18 x 13). Then I had **Abel Chevrolet** dial in a race alignment, to get the most out of the tires. I figured I would never get a better chance to go fast at Thunderhill, on the standard east course (3-mile) without the bypass.

My best lap on Friday was a 2:00.1 – a pretty respectable time if you start researching it. But then **Rich Willhoff** climbed in my car and laid down a 1:58 without too much trouble (he's a *very* good driver). Both of these runs are

available on YouTube, under my name, if you're interested.

In the back of my mind, however, I was competing against a guy named **Greg** who had posted a video to Youtube where he turned a 1:54 in what he claimed was a stock **Z06** with an automatic – non-Z07 -- on Cup tires. His Youtube post is titled, “*Greg 1:54 Lap at Thunderhill in Corvette C7 Z06.*” He has posted his car's PDR video, so all the gearing, accelerations, speeds, and G-forces are there. So that was my real target – to get close to his time.

I have compared my 2:00 lap to his 1:54. He is faster than me on many of the corners (and subsequently the straights). Some of it is just pucker factor – I expect my car will take turn 2, or turn 8, or turn 14, faster than I've been willing to push it. But does that explain 6 seconds? Maybe it

does. You take the corner before a major straight 5 MPH faster, and you will be 5 MPH faster all the way down the straight. Further discussion indicated he also had a very soft rear sway bar (non-Z06). He credits that for a lot of his speed. But what's with that??? Don't the Corvette people know what they're doing, putting stiffer bars on the higher performance models??

The PDR videos are misleading – they make the cars appear to be going around corners effortlessly. In the car, it feels a lot different. I'd love to ride along with this guy. (I'd also like to know who he is – his background – I expect he's an experienced racer.) Maybe it's just a matter of knowing the car's limits. The car is clearly more capable than I am. But even Rich W was 4 seconds off this guy's time. That's a lot.



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# Swim Party!



# Vette-o-Rama!



# Colorado Road Trip

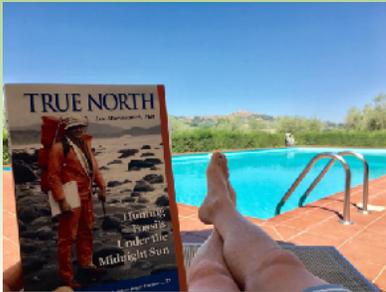


# What's News?

**Lou Marincovich** published his memoirs, *True North, Hunting Fossils Under the Midnight Sun*, in May and it is available on Amazon as a paperback or Kindle ebook. In it, he relates his colorful adventures during thirty summers of paleontological fieldwork in Alaska, Arctic Canada and Siberia: from grizzly bear and wolf attacks to nearly fatal bush plane rides and a helicopter crash.



**Gloria and Al Fuerniss** took a tour of the local Fox affiliate, channel 2 where they had this photo taken with the news team.



Left: **Andy Hoepfner** relaxes in **Tuscany** with his copy of *True North*. **Wendy Sprague** brought hers to **Sand Harbor, Nevada**.

## More scenes from the road...





# Collins Orton: Competition, Motorsports

Hello Santa Clara  
Corvettes from

Excerpt from Liz Calhoun:

*"Some of us drove up to Pike's Peak which is the highest peak in the US that you can drive to.*

*Colorado has 54(!)*

*"Fourteeners" (peaks that are 14,000+). Pike's Peak ranks 31st. This upcoming weekend the annual Race to the Clouds also called Pike's Peak Hill Climb will be held here. Hay bales have been placed along some the most dangerous turns. The clouds put on a great display for us today! And rained a little."*

**Back to Auto-X and Track Day stuff.**

**Mayhem at Marina** We

have our next Auto-X at **Marina** scheduled for Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>. General Mayhem (Rick Bronner) is leading the charge for this event. We do hope as many SCC member as possible take the time to come and run your car and to help with this event. We do need the Auto-X Army for this event.

**Mad Cow IV** Our next Auto-X is August 26-27 at the World Famous **Cow Palace** in **Daly City**. We have been fortunate with beautiful weather and great competition on fantastic courses at our previous Cow Palace events. On Line Registration will be available for this event. This will allow competitors to pay with a credit card ahead of time and select morning or afternoon Run Groups. Parking for Motorhomes will be available @ \$25per night.

Hope to see everyone at the Track. Even if you don't think you want to drive come on out and have a great day with your friends from Santa Clara Corvettes. Any questions, please give me a call or send an E-mail.

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## Monte Vista, Colorado!

We are 11 days in to the **Jack and Yolanda Run to Colorado**. The trip goes through Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.



A number of us drove to the top of **Pike's Peak** near **Colorado Springs** on Tuesday. The mountain run is setup for the world famous **Pike's Peak Hill Climb** on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>. We were thrilled with the scenery and doing a little fun driving on this very steep mountain road. They check your brake temperature half way down the mountain on the return trip. Many people use too much braking on the steep road. They should be using their gears to keep a slow even pace.





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# The Nut Behind the Wheel

Publications Director Jeff Sprague

Parting is such sweet sorrow... again. And, no, it's really not.

Parting kinda sucks. It is with a heavy heart that

after producing six issues of the revised **First Class Glass** (in addition to the 25 I did in 2008, 2009) I must now turn in my dance card.

As I had warned during the nominations, **Wendy** and I have been in the midst of seeking out a new adventure - a new place to live for the next phase of our lives. We finally found a house and settled on



**Colfax, CA**, just off highway 80 about 10 miles passed **Auburn**. I am hurriedly putting the final touches on my last issue so that I can have it done before the Big Move this coming weekend (by

the time you read this, we will already be gone and you will have successfully dodged helping us move!)

I suspect we will see you again sometime as we anticipate joining **High Sierra Corvettes** in **Grass Valley** and attending some common events. There are some great folks in **Santa Clara Corvettes** and I am lucky to have known you. My only regret has been that due to lack of time, or just plain laziness, I haven't participated in as many club activities as I would have liked. Ironically, just before closing the "escrow from heck" I failed to dodge the Cisco "lay-off" bullet - so after 22 years, I finally

have the time to do more things (but on a budget), and now we're moving away. I'm not quite ready (or wealthy enough) to fully retire, so Wendy and I are going to try to start a business. We have several reasonable ideas to pursue, but the one we're going to focus on first makes use of my 35 years of photography experience and 5 years of web design work... we're trying our hand at real estate photography, including drone work, and custom web sites. We're still in the early stages, but we're building a portfolio, getting our business credentials, designing our brand, creating a web site ([HomeTourPhoto.com](http://HomeTourPhoto.com) - work in progress) and will be establishing contacts as soon as we get settled. We hope to serve primarily **Placer** and **Nevada** Counties.

So, by the time you read this, we'll be bona-fide "mountain folk", practicing our country drawl, chasing wild life off of the "back five" with a squirrely rifle, practicing not cringing when we meet townsfolk that say they think Trump cares about them with a straight face (sorry), and of course lounging around the tropical pool that sold us on the house. (The six car garage didn't hurt either.)

Hopefully, once we get through this period of absolute terror, we will settle into a good and simpler life in the woods. I'll be thinking of you all while I'm missing the annual **picnic** and **baseball** game that I had been looking forward to.

It's been a lot of work, but it's been a pleasure serving **Santa Clara Corvettes** as your Publications Director now, as in the past. I hope we will meet again somewhere where the rubber meets the road.



**HomeTour Photo**

*Jeff*

Left: shameless plug

## Yes, even *more* photos from the first half of the grand Colorado road trip!



Photos courtesy of Liz Calhoon



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# Dave Katz: Competition, Car

We did well at the **Vette-O-Rama** 46 car show in in **Concord** on June 10. We won club par with 26 cars entered in the show.

The following members received top awards.

**First place:** Jim Bailey, Jerry and Lois Banks, Geno and Teri Brickey, Wayne Dorsey, Gil Garcia, Dave Katz, Gary and Geneva Leighton, Phil Moser and Jaye Eriksen, Dan and Tish Niehans.

**Second Place:** Ron Beck

**Third Place:** Stuart Calhoun, Keith and Sandy Mendia, Chuck Vivian and Linda Lariz.

SCC members also took home some specialty awards.

**President's Choice:** Dan and Tish Niehans.

**Best Engine:** Wayne Dorsey.

**Best Paint:** Gary and Geneva Leighton.

Overall attendance was down this year. Bill Anspach was not sure if the drop in attendance was caused by changing the traditional date of the show or by a declining interest in Type I car shows.

We will have a club display at the **Saratoga Classic** car show on July 16. The organizers limited us to 10 cars and required that our display reflect the different generations of Corvettes. This is the first year the organizers have allowed car club displays.

Then it's on to **Oakhurst** for **Southern High Sierra Corvettes' Vettes under the Oaks** Type I car show on July 29. We are



working on organizing a caravan to this show and possible activities at Yosemite. Southern High Sierra Corvettes will need our help with judging.

There are two **WSCC** Type V car shows in August. **NCCA** hosts **Vette Magic** in **Danville** on August 13, and **Family & Friends** holds their **Hot August Days** car show in **Vallejo** on August 19. Vette Magic only offers onsite registration, but Family & Friends is accepting pre-registration forms for Hot August Days. If you pre-register before July 27, the fee is \$25. After that, the fee goes up to \$30. We will caravan to both shows. The Hot August Days car show includes a free T-shirt.

**Rick Riccardi** has organized a midweek car show display in front of the **Carmel Mission Basilica** on August 16. Contact Rick for more information

*Dave*

## In The Pits

If you could drive to the sun at 100mph, it would take 106 years to get there. 29 million years to get to the next closest star.

Which of these will you NOT find in Hawaii: billboards, squirrels, rabies, seagulls, poison ivy? (All of them.)

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The road trip gang takes in a Hummer tour in Moab, Utah.



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David Wilson's haul from the Vettes & Vino run

## FIRST CLASS GLASS

The monthly publication of the Santa Clara Corvettes club  
Incorporated in 1975

Mailing Address:

**Santa Clara Corvettes**

P.O. Box 2634

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**Robert Kuwada - [rkuwada@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rkuwada@sbcglobal.net)**

**Cliff Martin - [dervet07@gmail.com](mailto:dervet07@gmail.com)**

# SCC Upcoming Events!

## JULY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 5 General Meeting**
- 6 RED-C Casual Run**
- 10 Corvette Day at Saratoga Car Show
- 15 SCC Annual Picnic at Hellyer Park**
- 16 Saratoga Classic Car Show
- 20 TGIT - Ludwigs**
- 25 SCC Night @ The San Jose Giants**
- 29 Vettes Under the Oaks Car Show

- 2 General Meeting**
- 3 RED-C Casual Run**
- 13 Vette Magic Car Show
- 16 Carmel Mission Classic Park & Show
- 18 Total Eclipse Road Trip
- 19 Hot August Days Car Show
- 24 TGIT**
- 26-27 Cow Palace Auto-X**

\*Some dates may be added after this goes to press so always check the [sccorvettes.org](http://sccorvettes.org) website for the most current

## July Birthdays

Peyton, Larry	07/05
Cry JoAnn	07/06
Dorsey, Wayne	07/06
Niehans, Daniel	07/09
Feimer, Joyce	07/11
Brandin, Kathleen	07/12
Kalivoda, Nancie	07/12
Bailey, Jim	07/14
Hays, Mikkl D.	07/17
Corrinne, Jeanne	07/18
Brownson, Christina	07/21
Linford, Nancy	07/23
Rosenkrantz, Kevin	07/25
Clark, Bill	07/29
Malin, Kay	07/29
Schiebold, Cris	07/29
Osborne, Larry	07/31



Our President, **Stuart Calhoon**, gets accustomed to the Big Chair! (I think he should have one of these at the Business Meeting!)

P.O. Box 2634  
Santa Clara, CA  
95055-2634



To:

Postage



**Above:** Colorado Road Trip Gang

**Below:** A Chinese Travel Channel recently sent a production team to the US to film some new shows. On May 23rd, Santa Clara Corvettes was their topic, and SCC made 4 members and their Corvettes available for filming. They included Keith Mendia and his C1, Rich Kelley and his C3, Phil Moser and his C5, and Stuart Calhoon and his C7. Interviews and action shots went on for about 5 hours. The final product will air in September, and we will be given a copy of the program (narrated in Mandarin) to share.

Santa Clara Corvettes is a not-for-profit organization formed to appreciate the Chevrolet Corvette. Our monthly business meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Los Altos Masonic Building, 146 Main Street in downtown Los Altos (1/2 block up from San Antonio Rd.) Meetings start at 7:00 PM. All interested Corvette owners and enthusiasts are invited to attend. For more information, contact anyone on the Board of Directors, or write to: Santa Clara Corvettes, P.O. Box 2634, Santa Clara, CA 95055-2634. Visit us on the internet at [www.sccorvettes.org](http://www.sccorvettes.org) for info, pictures, and the latest events.