

First Class Glass



August 2017



The official newsletter of Santa Clara Corvettes

Volume 42 Number 8



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Stuart Calhoon – President From the Driver’s Seat



Ah, the Colorado trip was great, but it is good to get home. Normal life has its appeal. Back to having a

cup of coffee while reviewing e-mail or solving a couple puzzles, while planning the day.

So what’s new? Well, this issue of the newsletter is Steve Wells’ first.* He was elected to finish out Jeff Sprague’s term, with Jeff and Wendy having moved to Colfax, CA (about 50 miles NE of Sacramento on I80). Best wishes to the Spragues on their new adventure in life.

August has several interesting events scheduled for SCC members—the Vette Magic car show on the 13th, Cow Palace autocrosses on 26–27, an eclipse-viewing road trip to Idaho from 18–27, and a TGIT on the 24th.

But watch out for September! Our premier car show is coming up quickly. The date is Sunday, Sept 17—only about 6 weeks away. Preparations are in high gear, with teams working the trophies, goodie bags, raffle prizes, shirts, parking, PA system, and port-a-potties, not to mention the essential City Permit and interfaces with the

* Editor’s Note: Steve’s first FCG newsletter in ~ 15 years

Los Altos police and fire departments. Sign up to show your car if you haven’t yet, and urge your friends to come. There is still some room left, but we are required to cap the registrations at 165.

Also, sign up to help put on the show—it’s a huge effort, and it’s our club’s primary money-making event of the year, so this is the time to give something back to the club.

The Continental Grand Prix / IMSA race at Laguna Seca is the weekend after that (Sept 22–24). There will be the usual Corvette Corral every day, with Parade Laps on Saturday. And don’t forget the Racing Banquet on Saturday night, not to mention the big race on Sunday. As usual, there will be opportunities to win some raffle prizes, and to meet the drivers and the team manager (and score some autographs).

And then on Monday, there will be a Corvette track day on the very same course they raced the day before. What an opportunity! See if you can beat Tommy Milner’s lap time. ☺ Or just enjoy cruising around the world-famous track.

Stuart

About the Cover

“Timing is everything”

You’ve heard the phrase “timing is everything.” Never was it more apparent than on this 17-day/4,100-mile run. Even though you can’t predict weather, going away in the summer months, is maybe not such a great idea. First day out, snow flurries; last day in, 120° with many 100’s in between, not to mention a high concentration of summer travelers.

Timing in the caravan itself was an exercise of extreme patience. With 26 cars & 46 people, 2 or more miles of separations in the caravan were the norm. From rest stops to check ins, from overlooks to separations from road work, timing was difficult.

With that being said, we had some wonderful times and great adventures. A jet boat ride on the Colorado River, a

rock-crawling Hummer tour in Moab, a Navajo guided jeep tour in Canyon de Chelly, riding on the narrow gauge Cumbres & Toltec Railroad, ascending Pike’s Peak, posing our cars on the Royal Gorge Bridge, walking the spectacular Antelope Slot Canyon, and driving on some of the top exhilarating roads in North America! WOW!

Those were just some of things and places we visited, but just as entertaining were some of the hotels, restaurants, national parks, and vistas off the beaten path which made this a memorable run.

Thanks to all those who entrusted us!

Yolanda & Jack Atkinson

Here’s a link to pictures from the run:

<https://goo.gl/photos/mw7Jx7TSZ1VXx1Fr7>

The Trusting Attendees

Yolanda & Jack Atkinson
Lois & Jerry Banks
Jim Barnes
Carol & Ron Beck
Liz & Stuart Calhoon
Norma & Joe Castellano
Gloria & Al Fuerniss

Betty & Ray Gee
Ken Jacksteit
Susan & Doug Johnson
Dave Johnston
Sue & Tim Kennedy
Mary Ann & Gary Kono
Sharon & Bob Kuwada

Geneva & Gary Leighton
Roger Martin
Benjie Mendez
Cliff Martin
Tish & Dan Niehans
Kris & Collins Orton
Mark Rae

Rick Riccardi
Nancy & Dave Spellman
Dana & Ray Taylor
Alan Templeton
Chuck Vivian & Linda Lariz
Steve Wells
Maxine & Roger Wiley



Cliff Martin – Membership Director Welcome!

What a great time to be a member of such an active car club. I just want to take a minute and thank all the members who devote many hours of their personal time to ensure our club functions at a high level of efficiency. I would like to encourage all new members, 24 since January this year, to make every effort to get involved in club activities. We all have numerous opportunities to offer our time, knowledge, and skills to make SCC even stronger.

Yes, I do understand that we all have other commitments, but when we joined SCC we had a specific motivation for doing so. Just as much as you wanted to join SCC for the many activities provided to members, SCC also needs your willingness to provide some of your time each year to ensure club activities can be continually offered. Without our members' help, we cannot enjoy the many activities provided. If you feel as though you would like to participate and help out but don't know just how to go about it—

well here is your opportunity. At every business meeting we get a report from all Board members, as well as from the event/activities appointees. Introduce yourself to these folks, let them know you would like to help out. Remember, our club is only as strong as our membership.

Okay, time for some stats... We currently have 139 memberships; within that there are 65 individual memberships and 74 family memberships. This all equates to 213 members.

Just want to acknowledge the club members who had devoted their time and effort to bring about another fantastic SCC picnic. The facilities at Hellyer Park were outstanding, especially the fully covered seating area with the covered BBQ's. Keith, David, the cooks, and all the support helpers made this another great event. The food was excellent! Thank you all.

Cliff



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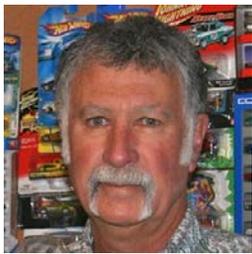
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Keith Mendia & David Wilson Social Directors



Back in January 2017, one of the important things your Social Directors had to do is plan when and where

some of our BIG Social events were going to take place. From doing the SCC Picnic for quite a few years, my “go to place” is Vasona Park, Circle Picnic Area in Los Gatos. Being that you can only reserve it no sooner than 6 months in advance, I called to make our reservation for a Saturday in July. Guess what—they told me that the group areas would be undergoing remodel in the summer and there was no guarantee that Circle would be available (Yikes). I asked for alternatives that would work for a group our size and after some deliberation they suggested Hellyer Park in San Jose. I thanked them for the suggestion and got in my car to go check out the park. Guess what—the whole north end was closed as Coyote Creek had flooded big time, and lots of the park was under water. I turned around and drove to the south part of the park and found the Buena Vista Picnic area. It was not flooded, had a canopy cover over the entire area and a shaded area right next to it with another 15 or so tables. The small trees had no leaves on them but you sure could see the possibilities.

When I got back home, I called the County back and told them we would take Buena Vista. Big parking lot, right off 101 and best of all, lots of shade and a much easier drive in weekend traffic. All we had to do was wait for July.

If you were fortunate to make the picnic on July 15th, I think you will agree that the event was a big success and the Buena Vista group area is a real keeper. Lots of members commented on how nice it was and that we should come back. That hopefully will be the plan for 2018.



We had 99 members and guests sign up for the Picnic. The main course was a combination of BBQ rib-eye steaks and broasted chicken with a nice selection of chili, salads, and desserts. All of this and some great munchies as well. I want to especially thank the Fabulous Four Chefs (Jerry Banks,

Doug Johnson, Bob Kuwada, and Chuck Vivian) for the awesome job they did in cooking the steaks (45) and chickens. That was one hell of a hot bed of briquettes. Also, I want to thank Lois Banks for stepping in and sectioning the chickens (15) so you could enjoy them (Lois, you need a better apron!)

An additional huge *Thank You* to all the members who helped set up the area and who stayed at the end to help clean up everything. A bonus this year was the opportunity to reinvest your \$10 deposit in our 50/50 raffle. Most of our members chose to do this (63) rather than take their \$10 cash. We had 3 winners of the raffle, third place went to Liz Calhoon who pocketed \$60, Second Place went to Mim Petersen who took home \$100, and our First Place winner was Liz Bronner with the lucky ticket that earned her \$160. Now that is a great return on your \$10. Thanks also to everyone who brought food to share. I loved that cucumber salad!!



That is the story from the picnic. We are looking forward to more Corvette good times this summer.

Let's go Agitate some Asphalt.

Keith

On Thursday, July 20th, we gathered at Ludwig's German Table for our monthly TGIT. With authentic German food, a relaxed Biergarten setting, and a good selection of German beers, it made for a perfect summertime spot.

Sticking with that same summertime outdoor Biergarten theme, on Thursday, August 24th, we'll be heading to the Jack Rose Libation House, 18840 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd in Los Gatos. For those familiar with the area, this is the location of the old Hacienda Inn. In addition to the 300-person covered Biergarten, they've recently opened Bramble and Bier. Now we have a full service restaurant, a full bar, and a craft beer bar with 30 taps. If you've never heard of a bramble, you're not alone. Try one of these tasty drinks, and you'll be coming back for more. Best of all, they're blocking off their premium parking lot just for Corvettes! Libations begin at 4 PM. See you there!

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David

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Delicate Arch & Beyond

During the recent western states Yojack adventure, we had opportunities to diverge from the standard routing and timing. I led groups of “renegade” cars to visit Zion and Grand Canyon National Parks, among the greatest in the National Park System. This was instead of the scheduled visits to the less spectacular Cedar Breaks, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Wupatki National Monuments. Along with the big destination changes, we had several on-our-own days in the Moab (Utah) area to visit Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and for some of us, the “Layer Cake of Time” of Dead Horse Point State Park.

Having visited Arches three other times, I was determined to finally make the strenuous uphill walk to see Delicate Arch up close. Many others in the SCC group made that trek earlier in the day, but I chose to go later at my own (slow) speed. I was not sure how my knees would behave, having been recently injected with Cortisone (thanks Dr. Thabit), but fortunately, my knees gave me none of their usual pain. However, walking my weighty bulk up the many hundreds of feet in that mile-high thin air in 100° unshaded sunshine proved slow and arduous. My nearly constant gasping for breath eventually led to a mild respiratory infection (cured once home with a doctor’s antibiotic.)

Numerous uphill hikers passed me by, usually asking if I was okay or needed water. I explained that I had plenty of water with me, just no oxygen. Eventually, I reached the arch. A young child there loudly proclaimed, “It doesn’t look that delicate to me!” I took lots of pictures, and a young couple (Isaiah and Marissa) took my picture for me, proving my successful climb. We spoke extensively about many topics, including all the Corvettes they had noticed in the



parking lot. After discovering that I was from San Jose, Marissa’s home town, we agreed to meet for dinner in July. On July 19 we had a delightful dinner together at Buca di Beppo. We discussed science, art, media, technology, culture, and politics. It looks like I’ll be invited to their wedding before too long. So you never know where Corvette travel will eventually lead, even after you get home.

Steve Wells

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Picnic at Hellyer Park



San Jose Giants Ball Game



What's News?



Steve and Valerie Bolaris announce the arrival of Anika Helene Kurka, newest daughter of Anastasia (Bolaris) and Kevin Kurka. Anika was born July 13th, 7 lbs 5 oz and 21 inches. She is the seventh grandchild for Steve and Valerie who want to share this joy with their SCC friends.



Former Publications Director, Jeff Sprague, and his wife Wendy are settling into their new mountain community in Colfax, CA. After 22 years with Cisco, Jeff got laid off two weeks before the move, so he and Wendy are investigating various business options, the first of which is a real estate photography business (hometourphoto.com). They've done 3 shoots in the Bay Area and will soon be pursuing clients in Placer and Nevada counties. Currently they spend most of their time unpacking or floating in the pool. In August they hope to join High Sierra Corvettes in Grass Valley.



Debbie Hutchings has a busy summer. She has been traveling to visit long time girl friends who have moved away from the bay area. In June she visited Davidson, North Carolina the location of Davidson College where Steph Curry played basketball and in July she visited her college freshman sorority roommate who now lives in New Braunfels, Texas. Debbie also attended Tri Delta Volunteer Leadership Conference in Dallas to train for her two year term as a district officer. In August she will attend her 49/50th year high school reunion.

Mary Ann and Gary Kono celebrated their 46th anniversary on July 31st. "After 46 years our greatest accomplishments continue to be our 4 kids, their spouses, and our 10 grandchildren."



Andy Hoepfner, former SCC President, current Webmaster, Corvette iconoclast, and man about town showed off his new Lamborghini at the annual picnic.



Andy Hoepfner driving his first Lamborghini.



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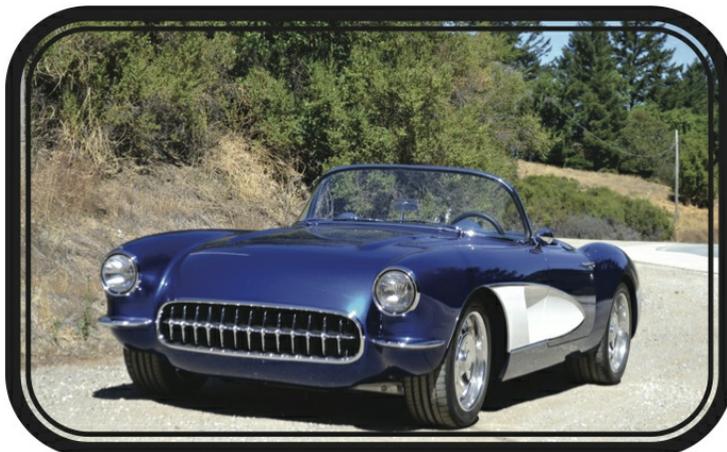


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Collins Orton – Competition: Motorsports

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. Online 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 at \$25 per night. In-person registration is also available.

Even if you are not an auto-X competitor, please come on out; enjoy the day with many of your friends from SCC as well as others. We always need some additional help to organize and staff our event. A little bit of help will go a long way towards making this a great event. We do hope as many of you SCC members 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.

After the auto-X event is concluded on Saturday August 26, everyone is invited for hot dogs, libations, and good post-race conversation at the home of Joyce & Nick Feimer in San Mateo. Info will be on the website.

Mayhem at Marina III was held at Marina on Saturday June 25th. General Mayhem (Rick Bronner) was leading the charge for this event. We had 73 competitors. A fantastic turnout, thanks Rick and everyone who helped out from SCC. The Auto-X Army was there! Thanks!!!

Speaking of Nick Feimer:

He sent a couple of photos that demonstrate taking off a wheel on his new C7 Z06. The ceramic brake rotors are very expensive, so you do not want to damage them when removing and installing wheels. See the photos of the special rods that guide the wheel on and off.



Per Nick; “Got it done this weekend. Dollies and rods made it easier to do without rotor damage, but it’s a process!” The rods Nick is using are from Reverse Engineering and cost about \$20 each. The protective foam came with the new Z06. This is good info for those changing wheels for racing and street.



Another great bit of maintenance information came from Rich Willhoff, at Abel Chevrolet, through Nick’s inquiry.

“I was reading through the manual for the Z06 (2016) and found something in the Tracking the Car Section I didn’t realize - it says to change the rear axle fluid after the first competitive driving event (and every 24 hours of track time thereafter). I have done 5 Autocross days, and 1 day at Thunderhill (the first time tracking the car). I will also be doing one more Auto cross weekend (2 days) in August, and Laguna Seca with HOD in September. That’s likely to be it for the year.

I assume I should have the rear fluid changed now? I tend to adhere to the GM recommendations, though I’ve talked to a few guys about this, and I hear mixed opinions on how necessary it is. Would appreciate your opinion.”

Rich Willhoff replied, “I would change it once in the near future and then again once per year if you plan to do 5–6 auto crosses and a couple track days per year. The rear diff only holds a couple quarts of fluid and it will get degraded in a short time with excessive heat. I usually change the fluids in my car every 3 track events because maintenance is a lot cheaper than replacing parts due to premature wear.”

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 email.

Collins

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Steve Wells – Publications Director Found between the Seat and the Console

Welcome to *First Class Glass* produced by your new Publications Director. I've held this position before, back in 2002, which was 15 years ago. Time has changed me, the newsletter, computer and communications technology, and much else. We have many new club members who have never read any of my writing. Thus it is an ideal opportunity to reuse some of my past material and save valuable time when it's most crucial, as with this particular issue. Or to reuse some of my best work.

Though it may look similar in many ways to the recent issues that were built using Apple software and hardware, I've rebuilt this electronically from scratch based on my decades old Wintel (Windows/Intel) heritage. I considered doing this in Microsoft Publisher, then changed my mind in favor of the far more robust Adobe InDesign. Realizing I had very short time to produce this, my currently insufficient familiarity with InDesign drove me back to Publisher. But I hadn't used that in 15 years, so finally, urgency and my huge familiarity with Microsoft Word ruled. Normally, it would be nuts-o cuckoo to build this in Word, but so far, the result along the way has looked pretty good. This page (my page) is the last one under production—the other 23 are finished. Wow!

As editor, I've assembled the submitted articles and pictures, but used my professional writer's meat axe. I fixed misspellings, adjust parallel constructions, tweaked odd usages, replaced misused words, and aggressively repaired punctuation, especially serial commas. If you don't know what any of that means, don't worry. I've got it covered.

Totally Eclipsed Adventure

As many of you easily recall, I've been raving away about the total solar eclipse that's coming later this month. And because only a partial eclipse is coming to us, the devoted observers are going to see it. The narrow path of totality runs across the country diagonally, and some of us are going to a point on that path approximately 60 miles north of the Boise Idaho metropolitan area. Our trip starts on Friday, August 18th and we return on Sunday, August 27th—consuming only 6 business days for those holding a regular job. We will see many great sights along the way including the beautiful Columbia Gorge and Canon Beach (I took that picture.) For more information, see the Santa Clara Corvettes website.

Steve Wells



Santa Clara Corvettes

Time to reuse old material.

There are many approaches to editing.

Strict – Socrates argued:

... the unexamined life is not livable for a human being...

Middle of the road – Euripides counseled:

Moderation, the noblest gift of Heaven.

Loose – Jimi Hendrix sang:

Now if 6 turned out to be 9, I don't mind, I don't mind,...

Verbatim – Popeye threatened:

If anyone dasses to risk my "Fisk"
it's "Boff" an' it's "Wham" un 'erstan'?

What does my use (and reuse) of this column's title imply? Ever notice how everything imaginable gets caught in that crevice between your seat and the console? Spare change, pens, tools, business cards, papers, loose screws, alien artifacts. This column is devoted to the oddities of the universe that defy normal categorization. Like the odd things lost and sometimes found next to your seat, they don't necessarily have anything to do with cars, but will usually have some topical relevance, at least as a starting point. So, again, welcome to this column and my work on *First Class Glass*.

Steve





Dave Katz – Competition: Car Show

I think our car show at Mountain View's Thursday Night Live event on June 29 was a success. I enjoy an evening car show with no worries about judging. The Saratoga Classic Car Show was held on July 16. This is the first year they allowed club participation. I think it was a learning experience for everyone. I believe we had a very nice display of Corvettes from all seven generations. Unfortunately, the staging time of 6 AM and a temperature of over 100° on the pavement took its toll on many of us. With permission from the organizers, we left at 2 PM instead of waiting until the show concluded. I would like to encourage people to attend Dave Johnston's car show judging seminar. Right now, we don't have enough judges for Spectacular. If you have never judged cars before, perhaps you are afraid you are going to make a mistake or someone is going to be upset with you for finding a smudge or dirt on their car. I think Dave's seminar can help alleviate those concerns. If you haven't judged since the last Spectacular, it never hurts to review the rules. If you have been judging cars for years, please share your knowledge with those who have never judged a

car before. There are thank you gifts for all the judges and scorers in addition to SCC worker points. The thank you gifts for the judges are a tradition because some of the judges are from other Corvette clubs. The dates for Dave's seminar are pending.

There are three car shows coming up in August. August 13 – Vette Magic 42. This Type V car show is hosted by NCCA and held at Blackhawk Plaza in Danville. The organizers are looking at making this year's show a people's choice event. We will caravan to Vette Magic from the Calaveras Blvd. Starbucks in Milpitas, departing at 7:15 AM.

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

August 19 – Hot August Nights. This Type V car show is hosted by the Family & Friends Corvette club and held at the Applebee's in Vallejo. We will caravan to this car show from the Denny's parking lot at 5280 Mowry Ave. in Fremont, departing at 7:15 AM.

Dave

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SCC Upcoming Events!

- 2 Business Meeting
- 3 RED-C Casual Run
- 13 Vette Magic Car Show
- 16 Carmel Mission Classic Group Park & Show
- 17 Rolex Monterey Motorsport Reunion begins – 20th
- 18 Totally Eclipsed Road Trip begins – 27th
- 19 Hot August Days Car Show
- 24 TGIT at Jack Rose Libation House
- 26 Auto-X at the Cow Palace
- 27 Auto-X at the Cow Palace
- 30 Board Meeting

- 2 Santos Family Car Show
- 6 Business Meeting
- 7 TGIT (Location to be announced)
- 7 RED-C Casual Run
- 7 Tahoe 49 (Corvettes of Fresno) begins – 9th
- 14 Midweek Run to Lick Observatory
- 17 Corvette Spectacular
- 22 Race: Continental Tire Grand Prix / IMSA – 24th
- 23 Corvette Racing Banquet
- 23 Ironstone Concours d'Elegance
- 24 San Jose Country Club 7th Annual Motorsports Show
- 25 Track Day – Hooked on Corvettes
- 27 Board Meeting

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		

September 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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/04 – Shirley Martin
- 8/05 – Susan Marie Johnson
- 8/08 – Chuck Vivian
- 8/08 – Bob Courtney
- 8/11 – Don Fulton
- 8/15 – Betsy Franco
- 8/16 – Chris Petersen
- 8/16 – Ron Beck
- 8/17 – Reesa Lawton
- 8/21 – Teri Brickey

- 8/23 – Wendy Hoffman
- 8/25 – Roger Pendenza
- 8/25 – Kevin Rosenkrantz
- 8/28 – Liz Bronner
- 8/28 – Judy Roberts
- 8/28 – Stan Cotton
- 8/29 – Jeff Sprague
- 8/29 – Roseangela Simpson
- 8/29 – Leigh Ray
- 8/30 – Larry Polyak

- 1989 – Terry & Christina Brownson
- 1998 – Steve Merrick
- 1998 – Keith & Sandy Mendia
- 1999 – Andy Hoepfner
- 2003 – Jim Barnes
- 2003 – Walt Kimball
- 2003 – David Johnston
- 2004 – John Lux
- 2004 – Jerry & Lois Banks
- 2011 – Jim Andersen
- 2013 – David & Leigh Ray
- 2013 – Larry & Toni Peyton
- 2013 – Gary Linford
- 2015 – Kevin Rosenkrantz & Catherine Steffenie



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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 (½ block up from San Antonio Rd.) Meetings start at 7 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. Visit us on the internet at www.sccorvettes.org for information, pictures, and the latest events.