



Scottsdale CORVETTE Club™

November/December 2022

www.scottsdalecorvetteclub.com

175 Members

2022 Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor

Mark Bales (480) 471-7365
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Dinner Meetings:

SCC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

No meetings in July/August/December.

Meetings are held at Ancala Country Club, 11700 E Via Linda, Scottsdale
Reservations Required

In This Issue...

	<i>Page</i>
<u><i>From the Driver's Seat</i></u>	<u><i>2</i></u>
<u><i>Cruise for a Cause</i></u>	<u><i>3</i></u>
<u><i>Holiday Decorations Update</i></u>	<u><i>4</i></u>
<u><i>New Cruisers/Membership</i></u>	<u><i>6</i></u>
<u><i>Coming Events</i></u>	<u><i>7</i></u>
<u><i>Vette Togethers</i></u>	<u><i>11</i></u>
<u><i>Thumbnail Book Reviews</i></u>	<u><i>24</i></u>

Scottsdale Corvette Club Mission Statement

To enhance the experience of Corvette ownership through the support system and fellowship of its members. This is achieved in an interactive social environment of monthly meetings, activities, road tours and a newsletter. This forum invites the sharing of experiences, knowledge and fun, while creating an atmosphere that perpetuated the leadership position of America's only true sports car.

All that is asked of its members is professionalism, integrity, personal ethics, and a love of the Corvette.



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From The Driver's Seat

By Mark Chulew

As my term ends, this is my last "From the Driver's Seat" as President of the SCC. I want to thank all Members who helped me along the way. I will be available to the next generation of Board Members to help continue the rich and vibrant SCC Club experience.

I became President of the SCC Board in the fall of 2020 as Covid-19 continued to pause the Club. Since we weren't getting together in person, I decided to try having Dinner Meetings via ZOOM. These ZOOM "Dinner" meetings were successful, and we had guests come and talk to the Club as well as lively business meetings. Also, all our Board Meetings were switched to ZOOM. We continue using ZOOM for our Board meetings as it is an efficient and surprisingly social way to have our meetings.

As things progressed slowly but for the better with Covid I thought having small gatherings for drive and dines would help Covid doldrums. Getting these day trips out to the club was the next hurdle. SignUpGenius proved to be an effective tool to create and announce activities.

Fast forward to the present; we have expanded the use of SignUpGenius for most SCC activities and continue to have Board meetings on ZOOM.

We welcome new members, Juan and Daisy Urrea. Mike Reagan our Membership Director has done a fantastic job for the past two years guiding many new Members.

The SCC Activities Team is always working hard to make our Club Activities SUCCESSFUL!! This is all due to the wonderful Activities Team we have in place. A Huge Thank You to: Rob Deacon, Jerry Strimbu, Dave Sacks and Rich Kosina. There has been a plethora of wonderful activities (something for everyone) including our first SCC Cruise, chaired by our resident Cruise Agent Suzie Poulter. It was an amazing cruise which took us from NYC to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Lots of fall foliage and most importantly lots of great friends making wonderful memories.

Everyone who has led a trip or has participated in a SCC sponsored trip you know how fantastic they all are. It takes some work but the fun of it all outweighs that. Even more importantly the Activities Team is there to help you!!! I urge those of you that haven't yet led a trip to consider leading one.

Please mark Sunday, December 4, 2022, on your calendars for the SCC Holiday Party. It is always so much fun and we do give back to the community. As in the past the festivities begin with a toy run to our Dealership Sponsor, Van Chevrolet where we put unwrapped gifts under the tree. Don't forget to stay until we take our yearly picture together.

Afterwards, we'll drive to Grayhawk Country Club for Music and Dinner.

Thanks to the SCC Holiday Party committee that chose to donate 80++ brand new books to UMOM on behalf of the SCC instead of paying \$\$\$ for centerpieces. However, I did hear through the grapevine that lovely centerpieces will be on the table!!!

SCC Board Elections are finalized at our November Dinner Meeting. This year the Nominees will be elected to the Board by acclamation as there are the same number of nominees as positions. At the December Board Meeting positions will be determined by the elected Board Members.

Thank you all for continuing to be Members of the Scottsdale Corvette Club. Our motto remains,

"We Just Want to Have Fun"



Lands' End

With their reputation for customer service and quality merchandise, the SCC utilizes Lands' End as our Club Store.

<https://business.landsend.com/store/scottsdalecorvetteclub/>

For New Members: You'll need to create an account. Go to the top of the above page and click on MY ACCOUNT, and select CREATE AN ACCOUNT. Complete the information, submit, and that's it! You can immediately start to shop. Any issues, contact Lands' End @ 1.800.587.1541

The Season for Giving...

\$3,277 Donation to Ronald McDonald House generated by our first ever Cruise for a Cause

Suzy Poulter

Charles Nance and I have generated a donation of \$3,277 for our first ever Cruise for a Cause. We had an awesome time traveling together with our group, and we hope that more members, and friends and family of members, will want to join in for our 2023 Cruise for a Cause 2!

The way the donation works is that when I have a 'group' on a sailing, I would get a \$\$ credit back for every 8 cabins booked into the group for being the group leader. The purpose of the credit is so the group leader working their tail off gets to sail for 'free'. I have committed that Charles and I will pay full price, and I'll turn the group leader credit(s) over to the Ronald McDonald House.

We get the credit for each denomination of 8 cabins we get into the group, so 8, 16, 24, 32 etc cabins we'll keep getting the credit. The more people book, the more our donation will end up being! The value of the credit is the average cruise fare paid to the cruise line but not counting the port fees or the taxes. So, once we've successfully sailed, they send me the money as they've calculated it.

This year we had 12 cabins, so I earned one credit to donate, plus all the guests on the cruise opted to have me give \$50 I would have given them as a thank-you gift for booking with me over to the Ronald McDonald House as well. That made it larger. I won't be able to do that with every cruise line, as they all do groups differently, but it worked that way on Princess Cruises.

Thanks to everyone who sailed with us!

Ronald McDonald House 10/20/22 with Kerry Schulman, the CEO of the Ronald McDonald Houses of Phoenix.



And More Giving...

SCC Holiday Party Update from Holiday Decorations Committee!!

Deb Anton Cindy Berger Jennifer Rabin Stacey Chulew

Article by Stacey Chulew, Committee Chair

A few months ago I began to think that everyone's' holidays represent a time of reflection, a time of joy, sometimes sadness but always a time of giving from the heart and giving to those less fortunate.

The aha moment came. Instead of paying for centerpieces why don't we donate to a worthy cause. The decorations team all had input and great ideas for donating items and where to donate. Ultimately books seemed the best for us to donate. We then decided to donate new books to UMOM which houses women and children in need. The 80+ books we donated are for ages preschool-tweens. The books were purchased through kids-books.com. The books are all brand new and many of you know the titles or authors (think Berenstain Bears, Roald Dahl plus new authors. We purchased a few 500 piece puzzles. The books range in topics about preschool-middle school, family, friends and how it feels to be a child. The total including tax came to \$391+ change. Cindy Berger is our connection to UMOM. She and I took the books to the UMOM donation center in south central Phoenix a few weeks ago. They were thrilled with the 6 boxes of books we donated.



Good News: There will be centerpieces!!! Deb Anton came upon a centerpiece her neighbor made (while summering in Colorado). It is very inexpensive and quite lovely. Deb & Brian spent the good part of the summer picking (well I'm not going to spill the beans).

We will have beautiful placards again. Jennifer and Steve won't be able to be at the Holiday Party yet (thankfully) Jennifer still wanted to be back on the team this year. Jennifer will work her calligraphy magic skills again. Thanks Jennifer!!

Looking forward to see all of you at the Holiday Party December 4th!!



They Say Its Your Birthday!



November

Kathy Bales 2nd
 Don Schroden 2nd
 Bob Hickerson 2nd
 Dave Forwood 3rd
 Connie Cassel 4th
 Judy Myers 4th
 Rich Kosina 7th
 Linda Nelson 11th
 Dean Perna 12th
 Leon Boyd 12th
 David Sacks 14th
 Dawn Siprut 14th
 Frank Heavlin 15th
 Eric Ostrow 16th
 Lyn Trayte 16th
 Larry Capek 18th
 Seth Rogers 19th
 James Garfield 19th
 Boris Karloff 23rd
 Mike Reagan 25th
 Judi Findsen 27th
 Nancy Sandvig 28th
 Ronald Blair 29th
 Stacey Chulew 30th
 Barbara Follette 30th
 Manny Siprut 30th

December

Jennifer Rabin 4th
 Steve Patricola 7th
 James Morrison 8th
 Rick Cartell 11th
 Juan Urrea 17th
 Peter Boland 17th
 Terry Patricola 24th
 Janette Boyd 28th
 Bill Follette 29th

(Editors trivia: We have more members born in November than any other month. And I needed to fill this space...)



**We're gonna
have a Good
Time!!**



SCC WOMEN!
SAVE THE DATE!
THE THIRD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
THE VETTE VIXENS MEET
FOR COCKTAILS
AND DINNER -
DRIVE YOUR VETTE OR
NOT.

THE NEXT DINNER IS
WEDNESDAY,
November 16th

HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!



DON'T FORGET THE
MEMBERS'
DRAWING AT THE
MONTHLY DINNER
MEETINGS!

You Must Be Present To
Win!!!

THE PRIZE MONEY STARTS OUT AT
\$25.00 AND INCREASES BY \$25.00
EACH MONTH.

BE SURE TO BE THERE!
YOU MIGHT WIN!



SCC MEN!
Save The Date!

Third Wednesday Each Month.

POKER NIGHT!!

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR DE-
TAILS!

Scottsdale Corvette Club...
New Cruisers!
Please welcome our newest members.

***Frank and Darlene Heavlin and their
Torch Red 2017 Z06.***

***Here's Frank. Photo with Darlene
next issue!***



Also welcome...

Juan and Daisy Urrea and their 2022 Silver Flare C8.

Photos of the Urrea's and their Vette next issue.

Membership Report

By: Mike Reagan, Membership Director

Since 2020, it's been a rewarding experience to handle your club's membership duties. As my term on the board draws to a close, there is an important fact I have learned that deserves to be shared with you.

Simply stated, the future of SCC is dependent on bringing in new members to take on leadership responsibility so they can replace our great group of "legacy members" who have served the club so admirably over the past years.

As we wrestle with keeping the total number of members at a manageable level, it's vital that when new openings do occur, these are offered to people who are committed to getting involved from the very beginning. This means future openings need to be viewed as both a precious asset and limited resource. Right now, the very good news is, without question, that the recent group of new members have the backgrounds, capabilities, and desire needed to step forward in supporting SCC.

So, please help them quickly assimilate into our club as they definitely represent our future leadership.

Mike

Coming Events

November

- 5th – Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championship
- 9th – Membership Meeting
- 16th – Vixens Dinner/Poker
- 19th – Suzy Cruisy's Walk to Defeat ALS

December

- 4th – Holiday Party/Toy Drive
(No Vixens or Poker)

January

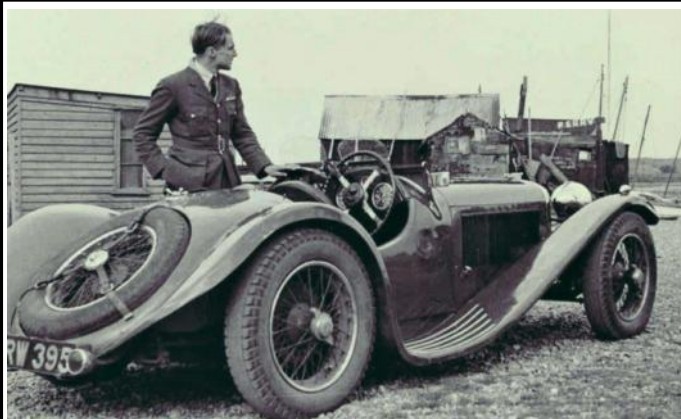
- 11th – Club Dinner Meeting
- 14th – Taliesen West Guided Tour and Lunch
- 18th – Vixens Dinner/Poker

February 2023

- 24th – Elgin Wine Weekend (spots still available at press time)

Watch for more Mini-Events!

*If you have an idea for an activity, and would like to lead, please contact
your Scottsdale Corvette Club Activities Team at
scottsdalecorvetteclub2020@gmail.com*



The Return of...

Arizona Concours d'Elegance
January 22, 2023

“Art of Aerodynamics”

Scottsdale Civic Center

In partnership with Scottsdale Arts

[Home 2 - Arizona Concours d'Elegance](#)

SS-90 First Jaguar Sports Car

Now's the time to book the 2023 SCC Cruise for a Cause!

Suzy will have a special Royal Caribbean sale for "Black Friday" November 19 – December 1.

Book during these dates for a chance to get extra onboard credit on your sailing, potentially the best prices during the year from any "Black Friday" price offers, AND often great deals during that week for add-ons we will have to pay for anyway – Drink Packages, WiFi, Shore Excursions and more.

Contact Suzy for an exact quote for you.

Scottsdale Corvette Club ~ October 15, 2023 7-night cruise

Revel in the relaxation of the Caribbean on the *Allure of the Seas* from Galveston, TX



SCC Cruise for a Cause –

For every 8 cabins booked into our group, Suzy will donate to our charity Ronald McDonald House the average value of one person's cruise fare in our group.

Prices start at \$449 per person, not including \$130 per person taxes.

Realistically, most will book ocean-facing balconies Balconies averaging \$1,915 per couple for cruise, port taxes and insurance. Drinks, Tips, WiFi, Airfare and pre-cruise hotel will be extra and determined at a later time.

This cruise group is open to ANYONE YOU WANT TO INVITE – Friends, Family, Neighbors, whomever to maximize our charitable donation.

7-NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN *Allure of the Seas*



DAY	PORTS OF CALL	ARRIVE	DEPART
1	Galveston, Texas		4:00 PM
2-3	Cruising		
4	Roatan, Honduras	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
5	Costa Maya, Mexico	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
6	Cozumel, Mexico	7:00 AM	4:30 PM
7	Cruising		
8	Galveston, Texas	7:00 AM	

Ports of call, port order and times may vary.

**To Book, contact Suzy Poulter Suzy@SuzyCruisy.com
or call/text
925-200-8166**

Have your Crown & Anchor number handy if you have one/know it.

The deposit due at booking will vary, but expect it to be \$500 per cabin, refundable until July, 2023, when the balance will be due.

Royal Caribbean Group, Ltd. Ship's Registry Bahamas
For more details: <https://tinyurl.com/SCC-Galveston>

It Was Twenty Years Ago...

Scottsdale Corvette Club Annual Corvette Shows

Yes, we had 'em!



Twenty years ago, November, 2002, the Scottsdale Corvette Club hosted the first of four annual Corvette Shows at Van Chevrolet. These weren't just show and shine or peoples choice car shows. These were full bore NCCC sanctioned judged events. "No sir, you can't leave your floor mats in the car." or my personal favorite, "Yes, we are deducting points for dust around your gas filler neck."

The shows were open to all Corvette Clubs in the Valley and Road-runner Region. Groups of SCC members would enter other Corvette shows, including one in Williams and one in Tombstone, to promote our show. The last few years we even had fancy trophies.

The show lasted four years. As often happens, we found the same small group of members were working their butts off every year, and it was a lot of work. It became evident our members were telling us they weren't interested in a car show. 2005 was the last one.

A photo stroll down memory lane.



SCC Corvette Shows continued...



Left to right: Dick and Sue Kulczycki, winner Jim Dobson, Kathy Bales



**Left: MC
Dick
Kulczycki**



**Right:
Winner
Mike Cassel**



**Left: Chuck
and Sandi
Weschler**



**Right: Trophy
winner, Dorinne
Dobson**

Vette-Togethers...

Murder Mystery Dinner – Sept 9th, 2002

Article by Rich Kosina



Strange as this may sound, what a wonderful evening as fourteen club members enjoyed a fun filled Friday night solving a murder!



The Goodhue's, Hitzel's, Kosina's, Charles Nance, Suzy Poulter, Rabin's, Reagan's, and Snook's participated in "Murder at Greystone Mansion" On Sept 9. Our group joined with forty other amateur sleuths to enjoy this live play at Maggiano's Little Italy in Scottsdale. They included an abundant dinner of salad, 3 entrees, and finished with NY Cheesecake. The cast did an excellent job getting the audience involved which kept everyone laughing all evening.

I'll leave it with what happened at Maggiano's stays at Maggiano's.





38th Annual Run to the Pines Our Weekend in Pinetop

By Steve Patricola

Let me start off by saying that the announcement, sign-up and subsequent follow-up emails delineating the guideline and events, etc. was excellent. Wish I could say the same thing for our leader and tail runner, just kidding Mark but, not for Walter.

Eight (8) vehicles arrived at Target in Fountain Hills, around 11ish. Three (3) C7s, two z51 coupes, one Z06 convertible. I believe the four (4) C8 coupes were z51 and one convertible non-z51 but had magnetic ride control.

As usual everyone was talking until, we were asked to pay attention to the instructions. Thereafter, everyone fired up their vehicles and we were off with Mr. Bales leading and Mr. Juessen as the follower or last car. We exited the parking lot onto E Shea and headed for N Beeline hwy.

We traveled approximately 62 miles to Payson. If you haven't travelled Beeline, you should. The road is macadam blacktop and is an interesting drive between straights and switchbacks. However, the best part is the scenery. As you progress the elevation changes as does the views of green valleys. pine forests that are beautiful.

We stopped for a short stretch and then headed east on SR-260 where we traveled about 82 miles to Pine top. We arrived and checked into the Green Tree Suites and disbursed to our rooms.

Charles Nance & Suzy Poulter arrived in their Mercedes, according to them the valley was in a deluge; thus, the brand X vehicle. At 5:30 we all met in the main lounge and Charles and Suzy lead the way to Dave Forwood and Sherry Nelson's home on Buck Spring Road.

AS part of the weekend festivities, they have a parade of cars that are part of the car show, Run to the Pines. As we traveled, people waved because they thought we were part of the parade...

Vette-Togethers continued...



Dave and Sherry had a Mexican buffet served with beer and wine. Everyone mingled and had a good time. Dave commented, tongue firmly in cheek, that some of us were outlaws because of our driving records. I will not name names, but all you have to do is look at who attended and guess... BTW, we assured him that we did adhere to the speed limit imposed by Mr. Bales.



The next day we attended the Run to the Pine's Car show. Not everyone left at the same time, and those of us that were there, proceeded to John and Brenda's house. From there we walked about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the car show and then separated to view the vehicles.



There were probably a 100 cars from customs, 32 ford low boys, Ford Vickie's, older corvettes, Chevelle's, Auston Healy, etc. Cars were arranged in specific classifications by rows, so you got to see grouping of similar vehicles and as usually, there were some very sweet rides... thank goodness, I left my checkbook home.

That evening we caravanned to the Pinetop Lakes Golf & Country Club with John Prenzno leading the way. We were met by Brenda and lined up the cars for the usual photos.



Vette-Togethers continued...



Cocktail hour was from 5-6 with dinner served afterwards. Two tables were arranged, and we had place cards that designated our seating arrangements. What was cute about the cards was they each had a small cow or fish in the top righthand corner to indicate what was to be served.

Fresh salad was the 1st course and as a main course, salmon filet or steak was served with, mushroom reduction mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables. Desert was cherry or coconut cream pies or a white cake. Coffee was available to everyone except Walter who only drinks beer and



wine. Most folks called it a night early while some stayed and went into the bar for so libations.

All in all, it was an enjoyable fun trip and as usual the SCC members made it all worthwhile.

PS. For those that are interested. I averaged 32 MPG on the way up and hit 34 – of course going downhill at 130 MPH... LOL. Got ya!



Prescott Corvette Show - Sept 23, 2022

Thanks to Rollie Trayte for forwarding a few photos from this years show. Including shots of his beautiful 2003 50th Anniversary Coupe.



Helton Brewery Tour - October 1, 2022

By Terry Patricola Photos, Terry and Dave Sacks



SCC had a meet-up at Helton, an industrial neighborhood brewery and taproom in Phoenix, AZ.

11 Vettes and a Cadillac arrived at 1 pm to see how Grit, determination, and humility in the local community has shaped their brewery and culture. Through alchemy, passion, wizardry and respect for the art and science of the craft, perhaps coupled with a little dumb luck, Helton is blessed to be able to offer their finest brews yet.

They demonstrated an opportunity to choose a brewing experience that was real. Developed to contribute to the art. Their legacy is to pass down love for the craft to future brewers as demonstrated by Evan Greer one of the Brewers at Helton. He gave us a wonderful tour of the back of the brewery and explained how beer is brewed. He demonstrated their products are created from the culmination of a life's work and pure enthusiasm for brewing. Helton employees love the hell out of what they do and pledge to never give up the grind!

Though a little heated, after the tour, we all went into the tap room and had a flight of their brew with lunch. So very good. Great Saturday afternoon.

Vette-Togethers continued...

Helton Brewery Tour



Fountain Hills Drive and Dine - October 8, 2022

by Dave Sacks



We met in front of In and Out Burger at the Scottsdale Promenade and departed shortly after 11:30 AM to caravan to Fountain Hills going north and then east to Dynamite Blvd., through Rio Verde to Fountain Hills. It was a beautiful day, partly cloudy and in the mid 80's - ideal for those who might want to drop their tops!

We had a beautiful table for twenty set up on Arrivederci's covered patio. The food, service and camaraderie were great, and we enjoyed a wonderful early afternoon lunch.

Cruise for a Cause *October 7, 2022*

John Cahlamer & Suzy Poulter

Three years ago, Suzy Poulter arranged the first ever Scottsdale Corvette Club cruise for members and their guests. The original cruise was for the west coast. Due to covid, that never happened.



The cruise was rescheduled for a fall color New England and Canada cruise. That cruise was also cancelled for 2021. Finally, most of us parked our Corvettes on 10/7/2022 for a flight to New York. After a frustrating plane mechanical delay, the airlines brought in another plane from California. We reached our hotel in downtown Manhattan, directly across from the 9/11 Memorial, at 2:00am, but were happy to be there so we wouldn't miss our ship departure.

We had 24 members and guests board the Enchanted Princess on 10/8. The weather was perfect.

Our cruise included stops in Newport RI, Boston MA, Bar Harbor, Maine, St John and Halifax, Canada.



Frank and Janet Tasnadi at the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI.



Ken and Fran Harder toured Fenway Park in Boston, MA and others did their own thing. The Boston Tea Party Museum was a popular choice

Cruise For A Cause continued...



In Bar Harbor, Maine, 10 in our group did a 'small group' tour of Acadia National Park. There were 14 total guests on the tour, so it was almost private for our group. The narration was great and the views of the fall colors were incredible.

Here is a photo from the top of Cadillac Mountain. And afterwards, most of us had lobster rolls in town before returning to the ship!



Bar Harbor

Cruise For A Cause continued...



Here's a photo of Lepreau Falls, near St John, NB Canada from the photography tour taken by Fran Harder.



And our final stop was Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. It's a quaint little fishing village. Quite a lot of us did a tour to Peggy's Cove.

Suzy arranged reservations for our group dining five of the seven nights. Rotating tables was a great way to get to know SCC members and their guests. Every stop had excursions which many took advantage of, or you could get off the ship and explore by yourself.

Suzy left two nights of the cruise open for us to try the 'specialty dining' restaurants on the ship, and many of us took advantage of that.

There were many venues on the ship that provided great entertainment from Broadway style productions, comedy, singing, dancing, exercise, club music etc.

Cruise For A Cause continued...

Weather during the trip was great for 6 of the seven days. Highs in the low to mid 60's. Friday the 14th was at sea from Halifax to NYC. For a little adventure, we encountered 40-50 mph winds on the beam with 10 ft waves. No casualties - the ship handled it quite well.

We arrived in NYC around sunup on Saturday morning and half got on our private transport to the airport, the other half stayed and did more touring.



Photo on our first 'dress your best' night. Top Row: Scott Feck, Bill Brost; 2nd row Diane Feck, Mark Chulew; 3rd row Ken Harder, Joanie Brost; 4th row Fran Harder, Stacey Chulew; 5th row Bill Follette, John Bowman, Janet and Frank Tasnadi; 6th row Barbara Follette, Jacci Bowman, Ed Luse; 7th row John Cahlammer, Kathy Moroney; 8th row Mark Moroney, Susie Cahlammer, Charles Nance, Darlene Heavlin and Jan Kellogg; Bottom row Frank Heavlin and Suzy Poulter

If you're wondering whom the people are that you don't recognize, we had a mixture of friends and family join us! Bill and Joanie Brost are long-time friends of Ed Luse and Jan Kellogg. Kathy and Mark Moroney are Barbara Follette's sister and brother-in-law. And Jacci and John Bowman are Frank Tasnadi's sister and brother-in-law. Frank and Darlene Heavlin are friends of Scott and Diane Feck and will likely be joining our club soon, as Frank just bought a replacement Corvette. (They are friends from a former Corvette Club of the Fecks, but Frank was Corvetteless for a short time.) We loved meeting and spending time with them all!

I think all were a little disappointed we had to disembark on Saturday. However, we have fond memories of the destinations and good friends. Many thanks for all the efforts Suzy Poulter put into making this a terrific event for the Scottsdale Corvette Club. Sue and I are already looking forward to next year's cruise.

Verde Valley Canyon Railroad Trip
October, 2022
by Linda Milano additional photos - Chris Mingie



The Verde Valley Canyon Railroad adventure began with thirteen Corvettes meeting at the I-17 and the Carefree Highway for a picturesque cruise to Cottonwood. Upon our arrival we checked into The Tavern Hotel. The hotel was awarded a 2019 Travelers' Choice Award from TripAdvisor, and it was



immediately evident that we were in a well-appointed, excellent hotel. The Tavern Hotel did not disappoint, and lived up to "a touch of class". The Tavern Grill outdoor bar area was the perfect meeting place to start the evening, and use our free drink tickets from the hotel. A wonderful time was experienced by all. New friends were made, and dinner was calling. Due to the size of the group, we split into two more manageable sized groups for dinner. Half the group went to Nic's Italian Steak & Crab House, while the other group went to Merkin Vineyards.

The next morning everyone meandered across the street to Crème Craft Kitchen for breakfast before meeting to caravan a short distance away to the Verde Valley Railroad, which was located in Clarksdale. We had a private reserved parking area for our group, which provided protection from door dings and any damage to the cars. While waiting under the shaded canopies to board the train, we enjoyed "Ales on Rails" with Arizona craft beers and food for purchase. At 12:45 PM we boarded the train for a 1:00 PM highly anticipated ride.

Verde Valley Trip continued...

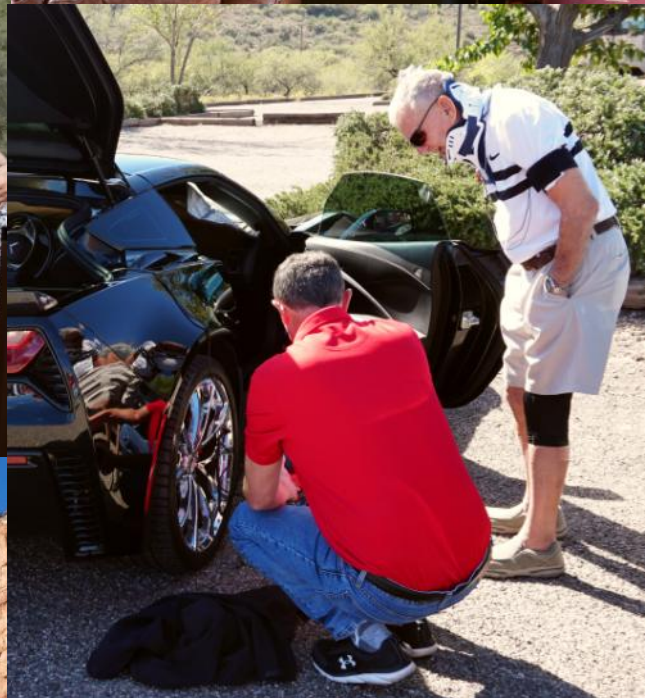


A private vintage Rail car awaited our group, along with our own private bartender! An open car was available as well. We rode the rails traveling through a stunning, rugged wilderness, where yellow leaves were abundant, and at least one Bald Eagle was observed. Fall was in the air! After a four-hour ride, we drove back to the hotel for a Happy Hour gathering around the pool. Dinner was at Nic's for those who had not been there, and various other restaurants for others. It was a perfect ending to a wonderful day.

Sunday, we again had breakfast at Crema before leaving for our various paths back to the Phoenix area. Everyone enjoyed the perfectly executed weekend thanks to Brenda Brandt and John Prenzno. Every aspect of the trip was excellent from the food, to the wine, and the hotel. The Historic District of Cottonwood will inevitably bring many of us back to this charming town to explore, once again, one of the hidden gems of Arizona.



Verde Valley Trip continued...



Both Rob Deacon and Dick Kulczycki had rim/flat tire issues



Thumbnail Book Reviews

By Dorinne Dobson



***All the Lonely People* by Mike Gayle.** "Ah, look at all the lonely people; where do they all come from?" As I read this book, the lyrics of the song kept running through my head. Hubert Bird, an 84-year-old Jamaican immigrant living in London for the past 60 years, just wants to be left alone. He's all alone and lonely and he thinks he likes it that way. When his new neighbor, Ashleigh, and her young daughter, Layla, knock on his door one day making friendly overtures to get acquainted, Hubert rebuffs them. When Hubert's daughter Rose writes to say she's coming to visit in a few weeks, he panics because he's been telling Rose stories about the gay old life he's living with his friends, and the truth is: he has no friends at all! The story then takes us through all the gyrations Hubert makes in discovering that he has a knack for convincing people that they should get together and fight against loneliness. It is quite a romp involving the whole community, and before you know it, Hubert is the president of the "Campaign to End Loneliness in Bromley"! In reading about this book, it is often compared to "A Man Called Ove." I think you will have to read it to decide whether you agree on how Hubert measures up to Ove....

***Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.** I'm not even remotely interested in chemistry and never have been. But this book captured my heart almost immediately. From the dog, named Six-Thirty, with a vocabulary of 600+ words, to the precocious daughter, Mad (short for Madeline), to the protagonist, Elizabeth Zott, scientist extraordinaire, who is overlooked as a woman and receives no credit for her smartness (her work is credited to her male counterpart), this story rollicks along, carrying the reader to new heights of respect for a woman of courage who is not afraid to stand up for herself, in spite of everything! The fact that Elizabeth can sell her chemical knowledge and make it interesting to the general public through a cooking show on television is testimony to her intelligence and her dedication to her profession. This may be Bonnie Garmus's first book of fiction, but it surely will not be her last.

***I Am Not Who You Think I Am* by Eric Rickstad.** This book was my book club's selection for September. Wayland Maynard is eight years old when he witnesses his father's self-inflicted death and finds a hand-written note that says "I am not who you think I am." Over the years Wayland begins to experience doubts that the man he saw dying was his father. He has never shown the note to anyone, and he engages in investigating whether the handwriting on the note is indeed his father's. This is a dark story with a lot of twists and turns that may or may not intrigue the reader. In fact, there are as-

pects of the story that, in going unresolved, caused me to lower my overall appreciation of the book.

***The Summer Wives* by Beatriz Williams.** I love, love, love Beatriz Williams' historical novels! And *The Summer Wives* did not disappoint, not one iota! With alternating timelines between 1930 and 1969, she captures the lifestyle of the elegant summer residents of Winthrop Island in Long Island Sound as it collides with the lifestyle of the working-class year-around residents of the island, descendants of Portuguese fishermen. Of course, Miranda Schuyler, stepdaughter of one of the summer residents, falls in love with Joseph Vargas, the son of the keeper of the local lighthouse. And thus begins the drama that turns this novel into one of intrigue and romance, enough to keep the reader eagerly turning the pages until the end.

***The Dark Hours* by Michael Connelly.** Another caper with Renee Ballard and Harry Bosch leading the way as only they can do under the skilled pen of Michael Connelly. It's murder, of course, along with a pair of serial rapists using the tag of the "Midnight Men," that keeps us reading as Renee takes the investigative lead with Harry, in near-retirement, advising her and watching out for her as only he can. Another page turner from one of the best mystery writers out there!



***This year marks
the
20th
Anniversary
Of the
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Toy Run!***

***The first Toy
Run was held in
2002.***

(There are four current members in this photo. And one behind the camera. Can you find them?)

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