



# Scottsdale CORVETTE Club™

July/August, 2022

www.scottsdalecorvetteclub.com

161 Members

## 2022 Board of Directors

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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...*

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### **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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FIND NEW ROADS™

### *Membership Update...*

Total membership is currently at 161. We expect to be adding another six to eight in early July. Most of these are referrals from current members. One of the best type to receive. All of them are very excited to get active and start volunteering. New members will be formally introduced at our September dinner meeting.

*Mike Reagan - Membership Director*



## *From The Driver's Seat* *By Mark Chulew*

I trust everyone is enjoying Summertime. Hopefully you have planned or gone on a trip to cooler places. For those who are willing to endure the heat, there are, and have been numerous SSC Activities to attend. As COVID becomes less of an issue, the SCC Activities Calendar will be more active and predictable. Thank you to all for your understanding.

Congratulations to Rich Kosina, Dave Sacks and Jerry Strimbu, our three new Board Members. They bring a lot of experience and enthusiasm to our club. Please congratulate them the next time you see them!!!

The SCC Board will be meeting throughout the summer. These meetings take place on Zoom. One important issue will be a price increase at Ancala Country Club for our dinner meetings. During the summer the Board will be researching, analyzing and discussing all dinner options. It is the consensus of the Board that Dinner Meetings are a foundation to the core of the Club. Our relationship with Ancala is very strong and the Board seeks the best value and experience for our members. More information will be sent out during the summer.

If you are looking for a new Corvette, please get in touch with me. I will be happy to help make the process easier for you with Van Chevrolet, our sponsor. If you need service, call David Rudzki at Van Chevrolet and let him know you are with the Scottsdale Corvette Club.

Judy Stein our Director of Programs, along with Mike Reagan (vital volunteer and Membership Director), have done an awesome job providing interesting programs. Let Judy know if there is something you feel the Club would be interested in. We are particularly looking for Car related programs.

I hope to see everyone at the September 14<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting at Ancala Country Club.

Our Motto remains, "We Just Want to Have Fun"

### **They Say Its Your Birthday!** July August

*Diane Feck 1st*  
*Chris Mingie 3rd*  
*Robert Snyder 4th*  
*Rollie Trayte 9th*  
*Mark Bales 13th*  
*Fran Harder 16th*  
*Sue Henry 18th*  
*Matt Buesing 22nd*  
*Howard Katz 22nd*  
*Walter Juessen 23rd*  
*Jim Gargano 24th*  
*Ed Luse 25th*  
*Tom Spera 25th*  
*Sherry Nelson 31st*

*Dorinne Dobson 7th*  
*Suzy Poulter 13th*  
*Jim Voice 22nd*  
*Chuck Johnson 23rd*  
*Reed Milano 25th*  
*Mike D'Andrea 27th*  
*Mark Chulew 30th*  
*Susan Rippinger 30th*

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



### **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

**Ron Blair Sells His '67 - Great Story!** by Ron Blair



It was a bit of a surprise that I sold my 1967 Big Block coupe. Out of nowhere I was contacted by a fellow Corvette enthusiast who had been approached by a buyer's agent who was looking to purchase specific Corvette models for a collection. I thought this was rather intriguing and felt it would not hurt to meet this fellow. So, we set a day and time to meet. The agent arrived on time and proceeded to explain to me that he

had been retained by a private collection in Holland and that he was charged with locating three specific Corvette models. One of them just happened to be a 1967 Corvette coupe in red with a black stinger and a black interior. The fact that mine was also a big block with side pipes and turbine wheels was just a bonus for the agent. While my car was not a concours contender it looked great and sounded even better. The agent spent a considerable amount of time going over the car from top to bottom. Test drives were conducted and then the agent excused himself and left to go see another car and I thought that was the end of it.

A few days later the agent called me and simply made an offer I could not refuse. No real negotiating took place. The next day a wire transfer was made to my bank, the agent collected the title from me, and the deal was done. Three days later a car carrier arrived to pick up my car and that was the end of it. I am still a bit stunned at how quickly and painlessly this all took place. Sometimes the stars line up and everything just goes well. While I miss the car my wife now is excited about us buying another Corvette, this time with air conditioning! So, we are now in the hunt! Happy motoring to all of you.



**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,  
September 21st**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU  
THERE!**



**SCC MEN!  
Save The Date!**

**Third Wednesday Each  
Month.**

**POKER NIGHT!!**

**WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS!**



**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!**

**ROAD & TRACK**  
THE MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS' MAGAZINE



# *In Loving Memory of Michele Juessen*

## **1945 - 2022**



Michele was born in 1945, in Gstaad, Switzerland. After her Swiss education, she tried her hand as a dress designer. She then came to the US as an au pair, and to school in NY. In the late 60's, she worked as a stewardess for Swiss Air, and came back to Gstaad to work in her Father's Sporting Goods store. In 1973 I met her through her brother, Koebi, who many of you have met.

We were married on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1974. I began working for her Father in the same Sporting Goods shop. With that, we saw each other pretty much 24/7 for almost 30 years!

With my background in the hotel business, I knew a lot of people around the world. People who provided great discounts! So, we started traveling, primarily east Asia. We spent time in Hong Kong, Bali, Singapore, Australia, Tahiti, to name a few. We were young and just enjoyed traveling.

On one trip we were coming from east Asia, flying to Acapulco, via San Francisco. One of our customers invited us to visit Las Vegas. After a second visit, we decided to buy a home in Las Vegas. We loved the heat, although we found the winters to be much different. We were looking for a warmer place.

In 1988 we checked out Scottsdale. We arrived on a Friday night and bought a house on Saturday. The same house we live in today, although enlarged. We left on Sunday. All further transactions were done via fax. Traveling back to Switzerland via Hawaii, Australia and Singapore, we realized we now had two pools! Las Vegas eventually dropped.



From 1980 until 2008, we were traveling back and forth between Switzerland and the US, still managing the Sporting Goods shop in Gstaad. With two dogs! In 2009 we sold the Gstaad business, to focus on enjoying our retirement in Scottsdale.

Going back to 1997, we applied for a Green Card, and later for US Citizenship. It took us eight years to get the Green Card, and another five years for Citizenship. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, cheered on by fellow SCC members, we were finally US Citizens. Michele and I were very proud!



In 2003 we joined the Scottsdale Corvette Club. Over the years we made several good friends, including some who moved in next door... I eventually became Activities Director. I put together many trips and had to compose the flyers. Michele was my Spell Checker and helped navigate trips. Navigation sometimes tense. "This way, right?" "No! I told you the other way!!"

Unfortunately, those good times were cut short. In 2019, Michele was diagnosed with signs of Alzheimer's. She was selected to take a two-year clinical trial at Banner Alzheimer Institute. It was very stressful. She began to lose her appetite and subsequently weight.

2022 has not been a good year. It started with my stroke in January. Weeks basically in a coma, ending up in Hospice. The doctors had written me off. Through it all, Michele was there every day. As we know, the doctors were wrong, and Hospice joyfully threw me out. I was home and we started to get our lives back together. We worked on our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Sadly, not to be. Her health deteriorated rapidly. Sick, difficulty speaking and unable to eat. After tests, doctors determined she had stage 4 cancer, throughout her body. Treatment would be torture to her frail body, and likely unsuccessful.

With great difficulty I decided to move her to Hospice care. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, she closed her eyes forever.

I lost the love of my life.

But, I have the memories, and our three dogs she loved so much.

*- Walter Juessen*



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



*Bob and Julie Goodhue*

*2021 Red Mist Metallic Z51 Convertible, with the 3LT natural and black interior  
(All Corvettes are red...)*

## ***New Rides!***

*If you have a new Corvette, send us a photo and we'll include in the next newsletter.  
It doesn't have to be a C8. If it's new to you, we are interested.*

*Red Mist Metallic, again!*



*Bob and Chris Mingie and their new 2022 Z51 Coupe (with the high wing).*

# Coming Events

## July

14th – Mt Lemmon  
20th – Pravada EuroKitchen Dinner

## August

3rd – Olive and Ivy Dinner  
24th – Board Meeting

## September

14th – Membership Meeting  
9th – The Mystery Mansion Dinner Theater  
21st – Vixens Dinner/Poker  
23rd -25th – Run to the Pines (Prenzno/Brandt/Tasnadi)  
24th – Historic Prescott Corvette Show  
(for Prescott info contact John Garley [pvscarshow2022@gmail.com](mailto:pvscarshow2022@gmail.com))

## October

12th – Membership Meeting  
19th – Vixens Dinner/Poker  
7-17th – Princess Cruise/Fall Colors (Poulter – see next page)  
21st – 23rd – Verde Canyon Railroad (Brandt)  
26th – Board Meeting

*Watch for more Mini-Events!*

*If you have an idea for an activity, and would like to lead, please contact  
Activities Director, Rob Deacon. [deaconaz@aol.com](mailto:deaconaz@aol.com) or  
480-540-9214*



*Cool guys, Cool cars...*

## Scottsdale Corvette Club ~ October 8, 2022 7-night cruise

### Revel in the beauty of Canada & New England on the new Enchanted Princess

#### 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 \$999 per person, not including \$230 per person taxes.

Realistically, our group is booking Deluxe Balconies averaging \$4700 per couple and MiniSuites averaging \$7100 per couple, for cruise, port taxes and insurance AND include free beverage package, free WiFi and Free Tips. Airfare 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.

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



NNR070\_7 Day Canada & New England\_R6\_MB\_CD

Have your Princess Captain's Circle 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, 2022, when the balance will be due.

## 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>

# Vette-Togethers...

## Tortilla Flats Drive

Rich Kosina

Photos - David Sacks



It was a beautiful, sunny, clear, day Thursday, April 28 when 10 fun seeking souls in 5 polished corvettes assembled at the Pavilions Starbucks. When this writer arrived (on time) at 9:45am the other 4 cars were already present and their owners already mingling. Once again I was reminded that retirement does in fact equal punctual.

At 10am with Frank in the lead car setting the pace and Mark handling clean up we managed to arrive at Tortilla Flats in just 65 minutes. While there are plenty of low speed limit signs (15, 25, etc) due to the many curves on Bush Hwy, we're fortunate to drive great road hugging cars built for speed. This did allow us to exceed those limits a wee bit. Further, there are few if any places for speed traps. We were able to park together in a single row and once some photos were captured we strolled the boardwalk and shops working up an appetite for lunch.



The indoor dining room was chosen over the outside patio. FYI the outside patio does have live entertainment but it is also cash-only and the temp was getting up there. Indoor, we were able to snag 2 tables for the 10 of us. Service in the restaurant was very good as was the food quality.

As always, the camaraderie was wonderful with everyone having a great time.

Participates: Mark and Stacey Chulew, Dave and Joan Sacks, Jerry Strimbu and Pat Collins, Frank Tasnadi and friend Mike Urbanski, Rich and Angie Kosina.



**The New Board Members!!** All three new board members were on this trip. I give you Dave Sacks, to the right. He's also one of the newsletter's ace photographers. Jerry directly above, and Rich just above Jerry. Welcome, guys!!

*(He claims he's innocent...)*



# A Black & White Fiesta



## Charlene Capek

On May 7th Cheryl Bloom opened her Terravita golf course home to 43 Scottsdale Corvette Club guests for a Mexican buffet provided by Krysha Sorce, Charlene Capek, and Cheryl.

Margaritas, wine, beer, soft drinks and water were also provided. The evening started with a parade of Corvettes through Terravita. In spite of the late afternoon wind, Cheryl's decorations stayed in place. Corvette banners on the fence fluttered, the flowers and lights on the tables sparkled. The temperature was gorgeous.

Cheryl is a charming hostess and made everyone feel welcome and happy to be there. The opening ice breaker had everyone picking famous couple names out of hats. Then everyone had to find their corresponding partner. I met several new members and finally the correct other half of my couple.

Great fun!



*Black & White Fiesta continued...*



*The Cowboy Mafia...*



*Black & White Fiesta continued...*

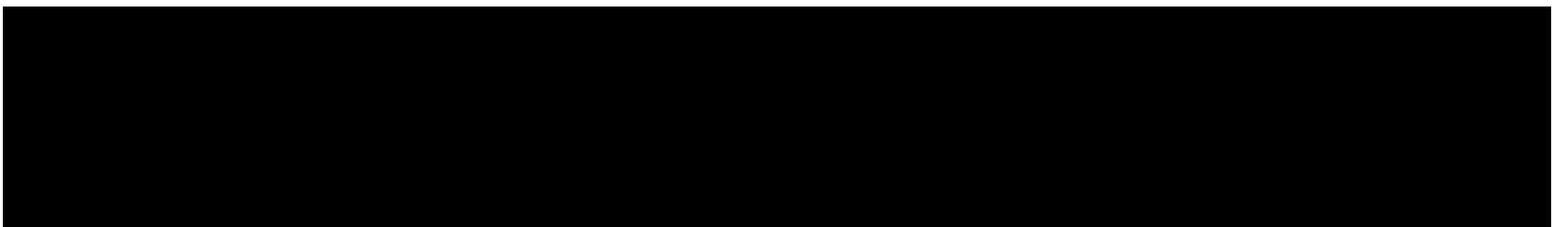


*Fabulous Buffet!*



The **Committee** responsible for a great event.

From left to right, Dick, Krysha, Larry, Charlene, Terry, Steve, Missy, Jim, Cheryl



# Williams AZ Driver & Steam Train Trip to the Grand Canyon

Hosted by Rob & Rhonda Deacon and Scott & Diane Feck



On May 6th, the Scottsdale Corvette Club left for a weekend driver to Williams AZ. This driver included group meals, evening socials, and a 1st class train trip from Williams to the Grand Canyon.



The weekend started with everyone meeting in Cave Creek so that we could drive together to our first stop - an early lunch at Augie's in Prescott Valley. After lunch we went north to Chino Valley for a quick gas stop before the final drive to Williams AZ. The group arrived at the hotel and the staff got us rooms in the same area of the hotel.



After checking in we all met in the hospitality suite for refreshments and snacks before dinner. A special thanks to our good friends, Frank and Darlene Heavlin, for supporting our event by driving an SUV to carry, water, wine, snacks, coolers, etc. They followed the group in case we had any breakdowns on the trip. The social allowed the members to meet everyone and get to know them a little better. I think



everyone enjoyed the chance to have a glass of wine and relax after the long drive!

After "socializing" for a couple of hours we walked to Grand Canyon Brewing for our planned group dinner. The service was good and the portions were more than generous. I would suggest sharing a meal if you go to this restaurant (ask Judy...). We were seated in the main restau-



rant with two large tables. It was a great evening weather wise for the short walk back to the hotel.



Next morning was the train trip from Williams to the

Grand Canyon on the historical "Grand Canyon Railway". All of the SCC members were booked into the first class cars with recliner seats and full

bars in each railcar. The trip was comfortable and had authentic country singers that moved among the cars. Once the train left the station the bar was



open and we could enjoy the Arizona scenery as the train made its way north on the 2 hour trip. The train arrived just before

lunch and Scott Feck jumped into action and secured reservations for the whole group for lunch at Tovar Dining Room.



We had plenty of time to explore the Rim and get lots of pictures before

we returned for lunch. It was a clear warm spring day with a few gusts of

wind. The views were amazing and the pictures do not do justice to the scale and beauty of the Grand Canyon. There were several viewing points where you

could see down into the canyon and get some pictures. There were also hiking trails that several members

took to work up an appetite for lunch.



Several shoppers were checking out the art and souvenirs at the gift shops. Rhonda secured some authentic Grand Canyon coffee mugs! After shopping we all met for lunch at Tovar Dining Room for an excellent lunch. After lunch we boarded the train for the return train trip to Williams. On the way back there was

a band of outlaws that boarded the train and "held up" the passengers. Eventually the sheriff was able to round them up! The show was well received and the cast definitely made off with numerous tips.



When we returned to Williams we had reservations for a group dinner at the best restaurant in town - the Red Raven. It was about 2 blocks from the hotel in downtown Williams so everyone met in the hospitality suite before walking over. We had all of the tables in the center of the restaurant. The meals were exceptional with a good variety of menu and wine choices. Service was great!



The last day was a chance to sleep in and enjoy breakfast before returning to the 100+ temperatures in the valley. Several members stopped in Sedona for lunch on the way back. Thanks to everyone for sharing this Arizona adventure. I'll close out with a Red, White, and Blue Corvette picture from the driver. - ***Rob Deacon***



*“Slap Some Bacon on a Biscuit and Let’s Go! We’re Burnin’ Daylight”*

*John Wayne, The Cowboys*

## *Monument Valley/Moab Trip*

*Stacey & Mark Chulew*

*Photos - Bob Follette/Mark Bales/Janet Tasnadi/Kathy Bales*

There is a saying “a picture is worth a thousand words”. That saying is so true of the SCC trip to Monument Valley and Moab, Utah from June 8<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>. Everyone had a wonderful time.

On the trip were: Kathy and Mark Bales, Stacey and Mark Chulew, Barbara & Bill Follette, Angie & Rich Kosina, Judy & Ron Myers, John Prenzno, Donna & Mike Reagan, Janet & Frank Tasnadi and Sami Weir.

**Day One:** We all clicked immediately when we met at McDonalds on Carefree Highway and I-17 to begin our journey. Everyone was all smiles. Some had been to Moab prior and others not. Lunch was at The Cameron Trading Post on the Navajo Nation. In fact, much of our trip was on the Navajo Nation. Masks are required inside most places as the Navajo Nation was hit extremely hard by COVID.



Just a side note, after lunch, Mark and Mark had the pleasure to meet SAMMI the CHICKEN and her guardian. SAMMI let her travel companion know she needed to poop, which is unusual for a chicken, which you would know that if you were raised on a farm like another ex-farmer passerby let us know. SAMMI has been all around the United States ... Google SAMMI the CHICKEN lol.

We proceeded to Mexican Hat, checked in and had dinner at the San Juan Inn. The setting is beautiful, but the rooms, well not so. After dinner, we sat outside overlooking the San Juan River drinking wine and eating nosh.

**Day Two:** We went back about 21 miles to Monument Valley to have a 3 hour tour (think Gilligan’s Island). The tour is run by the Navajo Nation, and it was a lot of fun. The “Monuments” are amazing, and the guides were wonderful. We were in open air vehicles, 9 in one and 7 in the other.



On the way back to the Visitor Center to get our cars we drove through wind and sand. Upon arrival we were greeted with a dust devil that got all of us covered in red iron dust. (*Editor’s Note: Bill Follette is still looking for his shoe.*) Everyone just went and rinsed off in the restrooms (we might have left a reddish-brown residue on the floors!). We went back to the San



Juan Inn for lunch and afterward left for Moab. To say Mark and I were astonished at the beauty of Moab and the surrounding area would be an understatement. It was our first time there. We stayed at the Wingate by Wyndham and it was great. Dinner was at Pasta Jays. We all agreed it was worth the wait (yes, we had reservations but that is another story!).

**Day Three:** Everyone went to Arches National Park at various times. Hopefully, everyone who

went on this trip will agree it was breathtaking and tons of fun. So many opportunities to get out and walk (hike) right to the arches and so many stops just to take a picture of some unbelievable Arches and Hoodoos! When we all got together for pre-dinner happy hour, so many stories were shared about the day. Dinner was at The Broken Oar. It was good and they really went out of their way to make sure our group was well taken care of.



**Day Four:** We again went on our own. Some went to Canyonlands National Park and others went on a boat on the Colorado River. Whatever everyone did they came back to the hotel with smiles. Ten Members met at the Sorro's Ranch for lunch. The ranch was located 17 miles back along the Colorado river. The

towering canyon walls surrounded you as you drove the winding road to the Resort. We visited another nearby Resort after lunch, The Red Cliffs Lodge, where there was a free museum celebrating all the Westerns, commercials and other films that were shot in the area. Dinner was at the Blu Pig and they too went out of their way for our group. Happy Anniversary (won't tell you how many years) to Angie and Rich Kosina who treated all of us to drinks to celebrate.

There was one HUGE MISHAP. Judy and Ron Myer's Corvette suffered a blowout that damaged not only the tire but also the rim. They had to have the Vette towed to Grand Junction Colorado where there is a Chevy dealer. They made it back to the hotel where we were having our "usual" after dinner gathering with and wine. Kudos to Ron and Judy who though being very tired came and told us the whole story and were still smiling.

Our thanks to Kathy & Mark, Barb & Bill, Angie & Rich, John, Judy & Ron, Donna & Mike, Janet & Frank and Sami. Y'all made this trip so wonderful for Mark (who planned this with help from Walter) and I. It is one of those that will have lasting memories for us.

BTW the trip home was easy but not as much fun as when we started.

*Monument Valley/Moab Continued...*



*Our Hostess and Host, Stacey and Mark*

**You had to be there to understand this photo.**



*Monument Valley/Moab Continued...*



*Bill checks his camera settings, ready to take another great picture.*

*Monument Valley/Moab Continued...*



*Last Supper - Blu Pig*



*Last, but not least...*

*Happy Anniversary  
To  
Rich and Angie!!*

*(And thanks for the drinks!)*





# CONEY GRILL

*June 25th*

*Around 40 SCC members gathered for some dogs, brewskys and an all around good time!*

*Photos by A. Adams*



*A colorful bunch of characters.*



*Special thanks to  
Mike and Donna Reagan for  
Organizing this event.*

***But Wait! There's More!***

Thanks to Dave Sacks, we have a couple shots from two Mini Events. Trip to Prescott, June 17th, and Maggiano's, June 23rd.



*Dave and Joan Sacks with new members Bob and Julie Goodhue. Prescott.*



*Enjoying dinner at Maggiano's, the Bolands, the Sacks and the Dobsons.*



## Thumbnail Book Reviews

By Dorinne Dobson



***Behind Closed Doors* by B.A. Paris.** This novel is labeled a thriller, and indeed I suppose it is one. The characters, Grace and Jack, from all appearances, are the perfect young couple. He's a successful trial attorney who has never lost a case; she's a wonderful hostess, top notch cook, beautiful, gracious and devoted to her sister who suffers from Down syndrome. But the more you read, the more the novel grips you as you discover that all is not as it seems... I highly recommend this one! You may want to read it all in one sitting!

***Magic Lessons* by Alice Hoffman.** We've all heard about the Salem witch trials in Seventeenth Century America. This book takes place in the late 1600's and tells the story of Maria Owens, a woman gifted with the "Nameless Art" of healing, also known as "witchcraft." As the last words of the book proclaim: "These are the lessons to be learned: Drink chamomile tea to calm the spirit. Feed a cold and starve a fever. Read as many books as you can. Always choose courage. Never watch another woman burn. Know that love is the only answer." For me, these words condense into a short paragraph the entire substance of the story. I found myself literally wading through the descriptions of curatives and spells. If you're interested in witchcraft, this is definitely a book you will want to read.

***Shadows of Berlin* by David R. Gillham.** This is a novel of World War II. The Jewish protagonist, Rachel Perlman, was a child during the war, fleeing or hiding with her mother and her Uncle Fritz. Rachel finally escapes Germany with her Uncle Fritz and arrives in New York City. There she meets and marries Aaron Perlman. Her life in America is not normal, however, as she suffers from guilt feelings resulting from her traumatic life during the holocaust. This story is an intimate portrait of what life was like for the Jewish people in Europe during the holocaust and the toll it took on their lives after the war was over.

***American Princess: A Novel of First Daughter Alice Roosevelt* by Stephanie Marie Thornton.** Alice Roosevelt is one of a kind! The daughter of that energetic, outspoken, adventuresome President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, inherited his verve and zest for life and brandished these qualities with fervor. As a young girl, she was labeled "American Princess" by the press. In later years she became known as the "Other Washington Monument." This historical novel is well researched and very readable. Alice's adventures and cavorting and her political prowess learned at her father's knee, all keep the reader going on to find out more. And even as she ages, the story does not let the reader stop rooting for Alice to make it through one more time!

***The Strawberry Thief* by Joanne Harris.** If you enjoy stories with a mystical quality, such as Joanne Harris' *Chocolat*, this will be a book you will love. Indeed, this is the fourth book of Harris' in the series of which *Chocolat* was the first. It features some of the same characters as *Chocolat*, and I enjoyed it immensely, even though I have not read all of the other books in the series. Vianne Rocher, the chocolatier from *Chocolat*, is now established in the village of Lansquenet-sous-Tannes and has a young daughter, Rosette, who has her mother's special qualities but who has not developed the ability to speak. There is a mysterious murder in the background of some of the characters. Reynaud, the village priest, and Roux, the itinerant sailor, are involved in the mystery in ways we must keep

## Thumbnail Book Reviews continued...

reading to discover. I love Joanne Harris' unique ability to involve the reader in the mystical realism of the lives of her characters.

***Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict.** This is another intriguing and enlightening historical novel by Marie Benedict. The "genius" of the title is Dr. Rosalind Franklin, a scientist in Paris, France, during the 1940's and in London, England, during the 1950's, whose intensive scientific research uncovered the structure of DNA. Dr. Franklin, as a female professional during this time period, struggled to maintain control of her scientific discoveries and to avert the efforts of her male counterparts who thought they were superior to her and who were constantly trying to undercut her efforts in order to claim her discoveries for themselves. You will be rooting for the lady scientist throughout this well-told story.

***The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.** As 18-year-old Emmett Watson and his 8-year-old brother, Billy, leave their home in Nebraska after the death of their father and the local banker's foreclosure on their farm property, their intention is to drive on the Lincoln Highway (U.S 30 to the rest of us) to California in search of their mother who left them some years ago. Their journey turns into a convoluted trip, however, with the unexpected appearance of two acquaintances of Emmett's from the Kansas work farm for juveniles from which he had just been released. The two, Duchess and Wooly, keep things mixed up with diversions to New York to retrieve Wooly's inheritance, and with Duchess's absconding with Emmett's Studebaker, putting Emmett and Billy on a freight train, trying to catch up with their ne'er-do-well friends. It turns into quite an adventure, with little actual travel on the planned route of the Lincoln Highway. I enjoyed this book as I have enjoyed both of Amor Towles' prior novels: *Rules of Civility* and *A Gentleman in Moscow*.



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