



May/June 2008 A Newsletter for Corvette Enthusiasts 100 Members

www.scottsdalecorvetteclub.com

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In this issue...

*Coming Events, Trip to
Death Valley, Las Vegas,
Laughlin, Etc., Trip to
Kitt Peak, Ethnic
Epicurean Dinner, And
More...*



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Van Chevrolet
8585 E. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
(480) 991-8300
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Meetings:
SCC meets the 2nd
Wednesday of each month
at 6:30 PM for a dinner
meeting.



Meetings are held at:
Thunderbird Grill
at Scottsdale
Thunderbird Suites
7515 East Butherus Drive
Scottsdale, AZ



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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 perpetuates 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.

2008 Board of Directors

President

Mike Cassel (480) 563-2598 mcassel@wickpilcherins.com

Vice-president

Manny Siprut (480) 361-5706 mannysip@aol.com

Governor

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Membership Director

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Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Dorinne Dobson (928) 684-0945 ddobson58@cox.net

Past President

John Runyon (480) 575-0581 jjrunyon@cox.net



New Cruisers

Ken & Fran Harder & their 2007 Burnt Orange Coupe
Richard & Bonnie Weiland & their 2006 Red Coupe
Bill & Cathi Paige & their 2008 Black Coupe

SCC Birthdays!



May

Barb Gerhart - May 2nd
Alice Pfeffer - May 3rd
Martha Thompson - May 13th
Bob Gerhart - May 14th
John Grizzard - May 22nd
Dick Kulczycki - May 25th
Michele Juessen - May 30th
Maria Patterson - May 30th
Michael Pfeffer - May 31st

June

Linda Cherner - June 3rd
Cathie Rosenbaum - June 6th
Rolf Aberegg - June 7th
Sue Kulczycki - June 13th
Sharon Swensen - June 14th
Joel Patterson - June 16th
Norma Parker - June 30th



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Coming Events!

May 14th - Club Dinner Meeting
May 16-18th - Grand Canyon Skywalk/Peach Sp. Trip
May 21st - Vette Vixens Dinner
May 24th - Progressive Dinner - POSTPONED!
May 28th - Board Meeting

June 11th - Club Dinner Meeting
June 14th - Private Party at the Weschlers'
June 18th - Vette Vixens Dinner
June 25th - Board Meeting
June 28th - Ethnic Epicurean Experience

July 9th - Club Dinner Meeting
July 16th - Vette Vixens
July 17-20th - Monument Valley/Pagosa Sp. CO Trip
July 23rd - Board Meeting

August 13th - Club Dinner Meeting
August 15-17th - Salt River Canyon Trip
August 20th - Vette Vixens
August 27th - Board Meeting

We have included the Board Meeting dates in case you have a topic you would like the Board to discuss. Just let us know prior to any of the Board Meetings.



Editor's Corner

It's May already! I have had a busy couple of months and so this newsletter is being done

at the last minute and is missing a few things that have been regular features. Life should slow down over the summer and hopefully the next issue will have more technical information for the guys.

I have to tell you that the newsletter is what you, the members, make it. Your contributions are what make it interesting. When doing Corvette-related activities, or even just having Corvette-related thoughts, please keep the newsletter in mind. You guys who are Corvette Forum aficionados, please think about contributing some of your new-found, interesting items for the enjoyment of the entire Club.

If you see an interesting picture of a Corvette, or any kind of interesting car stuff, please think

Editor's Corner

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of the newsletter. I will accept all kinds of tidbits of information for consideration in the newsletter. These things are what make the newsletter versatile and interesting.

Thanks to Berny for submitting the photo of his lithograph of an old gas station in Canada. You will find it on page 62 of this issue. This is the kind of thing I would like to receive from each and every one of you!

Just in case you all take this message to heart, the deadline for the next issue is **TUESDAY, JULY 1ST!** With the Fourth of July weekend coming up, and with Jim and me being in California the week of July 6-13, the newsletter will need to be out of my hands and into yours by July 3.

Here's hoping I hear from at least some of you with material for the next newsletter. Hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Dorinne

ANOTHER ETHNIC
EPICUREAN EXPERIENCE IS
COMING OUR WAY
ON JUNE 28TH!

Remember, these dinners are usually reasonably priced and are about trying new and different types of food. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss out on this fun evening.



Here's our wish for Dick Gutherless, who is now recuperating at home from serious health issues! We all hope to see you back with us soon, Dick!

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Let's all get together on Flag Day, June 14th, for an All-American Barbecue Dinner at the Weschlers' Home!

Check the flier for details or contact Walter at juessen@aol.com

Trip to Death Valley..... With Stops in Las Vegas & Laughlin

By Jack Weber

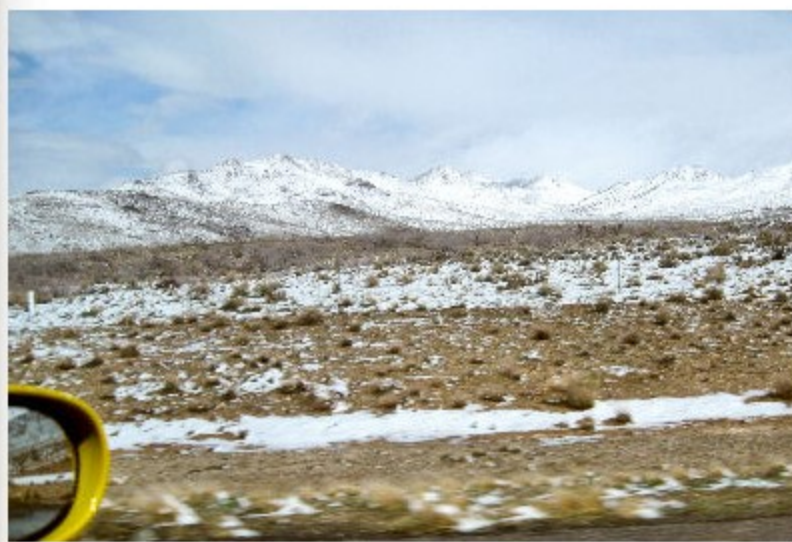
Photos Courtesy of Mark Bales &
Jack Weber



On Sunday March 16th, six shiny Corvettes left our rendezvous spot at 7th Ave. and Carefree Hwy, right on time (of course). Those 12 fortunate participants were our fearless leaders, Walter and Michele, plus John and Jane, Mark and Kathy, Lon and Dorothy, Dick and Linda and Jack and Bev.

Although the overpass at I-17 was supposed to have been closed for the entire weekend, it opened Friday evening, so we didn't need to take a detour, which probably saved us about a half hour.

Lots of wildflowers greeted us as we "flew" to Wickenburg. Our drive became more of a challenge as we headed west on I-40, as rain, hail and snow greeted us.



Little did we appreciate how fortunate we were with that very minor inconvenience (not to mention having dirty cars for the whole trip) until we returned home Wednesday evening and read in the Monday newspaper that; "Crashes claim 2, shut I-40 stretch. Near Flagstaff, snow spurs 100-car pileup." If we'd been about 50 miles east of where we got on I-40, we might have had a very short and disastrous "vacation!"

Death Valley Caravan

We were delayed for about an hour as we crossed Hoover Dam, as traffic was backed up for at least five miles in both directions. But, we made it to the MGM Grand in time for dinner (with NO "U Turns").



Speedin' Across Hoover Dam

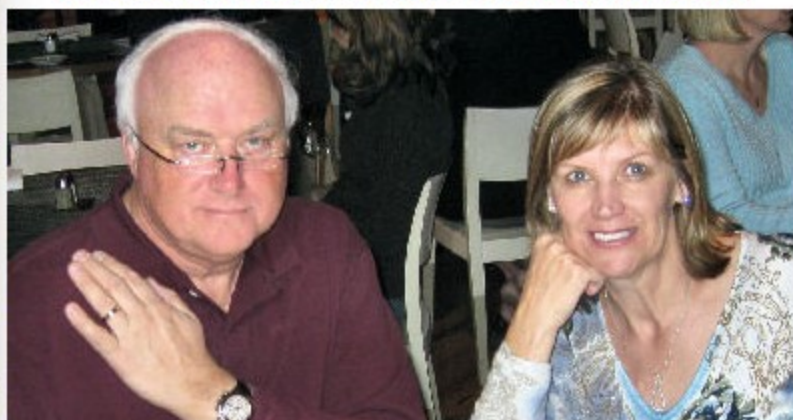
When we arrived on time for our dinner reservation at the Wolfgang Puck restaurant, we only waited a half hour for water and menus, another half hour to get our orders in and after

Death Valley Caravan

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eating, at least another half hour to get our checks. But, Kathy said her mussels were the best she'd ever tasted, and Jane and I had delicious liver and onions!

So here's everyone enjoying dinner at Wolfgang Puck's:

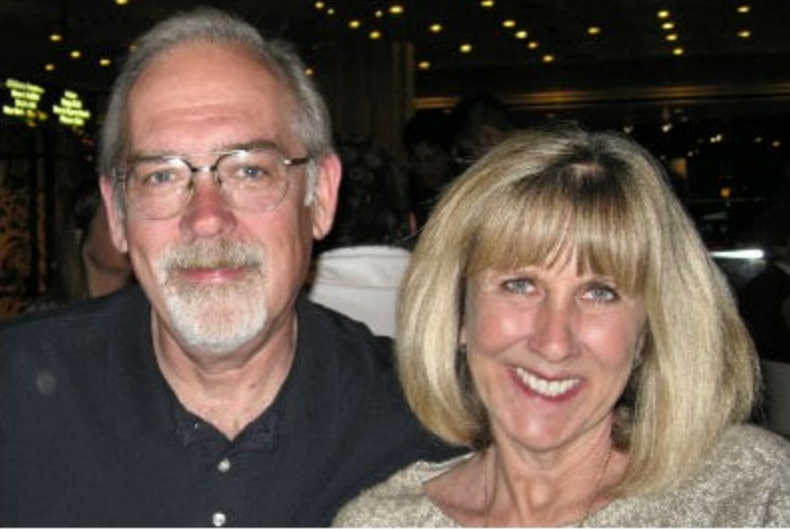


Death Valley Caravan



Death Valley Caravan

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Death Valley Caravan

But, all this time John and I were chomping at the bit to get to the Black Jack tables. When we finally made it, it only took about 20 minutes for both of us to drain our first \$100, so John left for better "pastures." He hadn't been gone 10 minutes and I had my original money back. I figured that was extremely lucky, so I tried a dollar slot. After losing \$14 dollars, I drew the 10, Jack Queen and Ace of hearts. Obviously I kept them and hit the King of hearts, giving me a Royal Flush - and \$250! Not wishing to press my luck, I headed for bed.

We departed the MGM at 9am Monday, and other than one 90 degree, right angle turn so we



Death Valley Caravan

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could exit one freeway on to another, we arrived at our lunch destination at Furnace Creek on time.



Jack and the Girls at the Furnace Creek Inn

Death Valley Caravan

We did take one planned detour to visit Dante's View which is 5,000' above the Death Valley floor. It reminded me of one of our trips to Israel, when we entered that country from Jordan. On our way from southern Jordan to the north, we stopped at Mt. Nebo, where Moses looked across the Jordan Valley into the Promised Land, being able to see across the Jor-



Standing atop Dante's View looking across Death Valley to Telescope Peak. This "View" is about 5,000 feet above the Valley floor. (Ed. Note: This is a smaller version of the cover photo which was taken by Jack.)

Death Valley Caravan

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dan Valley to what would become Masada and all the way up to the Sea of Galilee. We had a similar panoramic view at Dante's View, being able to see all the way across Death Valley and many miles north and south. A fabulous view of that national park!



Group shivering at Dante's View



Leaving Dante's View



Vettes at Dante's View

After lunch, we traveled about 40 miles north to Scotty's Castle, which was built in the early 1900's. The real name of this "Castle" is the "Death Valley Ranch," so named by the actual owner, Albert and Bessie Johnson. "Walter Scott often told reporters that it was his 'shack' or 'castle.' While it was the Johnsons who financed the grandiose project, it was Scott who added the mystery, curiosity and entertainment... Winters at the 3,000 foot elevation can still be cool, even here in the desert. Buildings were heated by a combination of an oil-fired furnace, stoves and fireplaces. However, most of the 14 fireplaces on the Castle grounds appear to have been used more for atmosphere than heating. Need for firewood introduced a major problem as it was a scarce and expensive item in the desert. Johnson solved the problem by making the best of a bad situation when the local Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad was abandoned in 1928. Loss of the rail link was a major setback, but Johnson was able to buy over 120,100 wooden crossties



for only \$1,500. However the cost of transporting the ties to the Castle (20 miles) came to an additional \$25,000. Despite the expense, Johnson had all the firewood he would need for years to come, in fact, nearly one third of them still remain on the property."

After traversing the 40 miles back to the south, we landed in the Stovepipe Wells Motel. This majestic edifice reminded Bev and me of a motel on the west side of the Sea of Galilee named the Hartman Hotel. It was so bad that we named it "The Horrible Hartman." The Stovepipe and the Hartman had very similar accommodations: no telephone, no TV, no hair blower, etc., etc. - and God forbid - no casino!! Let's just say it was quaint. But, because we didn't have the normal accoutrements, we had to talk to one another - which proved to be more entertaining than a stage show anyway. A good time was had by all, and we all got to bed early, too.



Click on the Standing Couple to Get a Closer View of Lon and Kathy

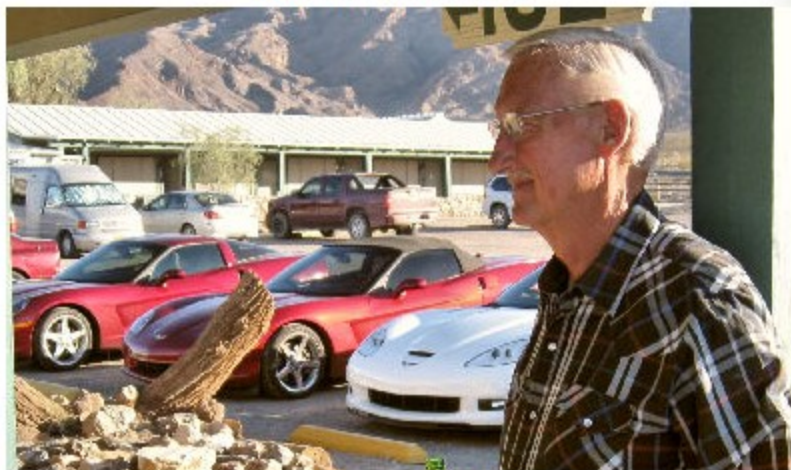


Dunes on the Way to Stovepipe

Death Valley Caravan



Relaxing at Stovepipe



Jack at Stovepipe

We decided to leave Stovepipe after the morning "rush hour traffic." As it turned out, that traffic congestion must have started before daylight, because we never saw it. In fact, as we drove toward Laughlin, we must have passed at least one car every 6 or 7 miles for the first 50

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miles of so. Great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there.

After leaving Stovepipe, we took a 10 mile loop called Artist Drive - highly recommended if you're ever in that vicinity. Even more beautiful and diverse geology than on or around the Valley. It's a one-way road, being only about 8 or 9 feet wide in some places. Barely wide enough for our rearview mirrors! Our tour guide Walter got a "star" for that diversion.



Driving up Artist's Drive

Death Valley Caravan



Group at Artist's Drive
Click on Picture for Close-up View



Lon & Dorothy on Artist's Drive

Death Valley Caravan

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Lon, Walter & Kathy



Lon & Mark's Vettes at Artist's Drive

Death Valley Caravan

About 15 miles further south we came to "Badwater Basin," the lowest point in the Western hemisphere - 282 feet below sea level! Looking west one saw the 11,049' high "Telescope Peak," and as the Park Ranger told us to turn around and look east, we saw "Dante's View" upon which we stood the day before. The really interesting thing we saw from -282' was a sign on the side of the cliff under "Dante's Peak," that read, "Sea Level." It looked about 30 stories above us, and gave an eerie feeling to anyone who considered how much water would be above us if the Pacific Ocean could get to that area.



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Bev and I lived nearly 20 years in California and never took the time to visit Death Valley. I hope those of you who have never availed yourselves of this largest (in area - 3.3 million acres) National Park in the contiguous US, will take the time to do so. You won't be disappointed. Thank you Walter, for scheduling this trip for the club!

Death Valley Caravan

As we pressed on toward our luncheon destination, our tour guide almost saw stars as his gas gauge showed that he was running on fumes about 10 miles out of town. We were really glad Walter didn't run out of gas because he would have been deeply disappointed as he watched three Corvettes drive past, leaving him (and Michele) in a cloud of dust. But, Walter made it to Shoshone where we had lunch, after he filled up on \$4.39 gas.



Lunch at The Famous Crowbar Saloon

Death Valley Caravan

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We all arrived safely in Laughlin at about 4:30 and stayed in the Golden Nugget. While overlooking the Colorado River, we dined in the Joe's Crab Shack. Good food, good fellowship! I made another \$50 at the Black Jack tables and then hit the hay.



Durbys at Joe's Crab Shack

Up for a good breakfast and we all met again at 9am and departed for the beginning of Route 66 at Oatman. Dorothy was so looking forward to seeing the donkeys, but as luck would have it, they don't arrive until later in the day. Incidentally, the mailman delivers mail daily; traversing the hairpin turns each way from Kingman to Oatman and back. He claims to wear out a set of tires every 3 months.



Beautiful Downtown Oatman

Dorothy as Oatman Cowgirl >>





The trip to Wickenburg was uneventful, and the four cars (we lost Dick and Linda in Vegas and John and Jane came home a day early) parted company there. I say without fear of contradiction that a great time was had by all and our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our tremendous and fearless leaders, Walter and Michele!! Thanks to both of you for making this a not-to-be-forgotten trip!!

For those who might be interested, we traversed a total of 1102 miles, door to door.

Jack Weber

« The author as an Oatman Zombie,....



SOME OLD CLASSIC CARS



This is a 1938 Buick Y - and this photograph is 70 years old! The resolution is not high, thus the size of this and the following photos.

Some Old Classic Cars

This is a 1941 Chrysler Thunderbolt. It looks similar to (and may be the same as) one that was at the Phoenix Art Museum Curves of Steel show a couple of years ago.



This 1953 Buick Wildcat II brings back some memories of those old 1950's Buicks.



This looks like a concept car to me - do you recall ever seeing a 1951 Buick LeSabre that looked like this???



Here's another 1953 Buick Wildcat. Quite different from the one on the prior page, with the indentations on the rear panels.

This 1954 Dodge Firearrow is another car that does not look familiar. Have you seen one of these?





**JOHN GRIZZARD! WHERE WERE YOU
ON APRIL 9TH?**

You missed out on the \$125.00 prize as your name was drawn in the Members' Drawing! The amount to be awarded to the Member whose name is drawn and who is in attendance at the May meeting -
on MAY 14TH - is

\$150.00

BE THERE OR MISS THE MONEY!

Who said it doesn't pay to attend SCC meetings?

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**TRIP TO KITT PEAK OBSERVATORY
APRIL 19, 2008**



By Sue Kulczycki

We had an early meeting time for our trip to Tucson as we had quite a bit of mileage to cover. Six Corvettes set off from Chandler Mall, down the 202 to head to I-10 south to Tucson. Unbeknownst to us, the freeway was completely blocked at that intersection, so we had return to the mall, and take another route to I-10 South. Good thing we met early! We sped south as quickly as we could (which was very quickly on some stretches) and without a bathroom break (a record for this club) made it to Kitt Peak Ob-

Trip to Kitt Peak Observatory

servatory just in time for the 11:30 am tour.

For those of you who have not made the trip before, Kitt Peak Observatory is located 56 miles southeast of Tucson on the Tohono O'odham Reservation off State Route 86. Kitt Peak was selected in 1958 as the site for a national observatory, and home to the largest collection of telescopes. Kitt Peak has 25 optical and 2 radio telescopes.



The Mayall 4 meter telescope is one of the largest in the world. It is 18 stories high and can be seen just below the summit from over 50

Trip to Kitt Peak Observatory

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miles away. The telescope was finished in 1970. The dome weighs 500 tons and has a double shell. The structure can withstand hurricane force winds of 150 miles per hour. The primary mirror weighs 15 tons. There are 4 more requests for telescope time than there are clear nights in a year.



The Mayall telescope was not open the day we were there, as the winds were becoming quite strong. We did go into the 2.1 meter visitor area and had a presentation by one of the docents giving tours. We were not able to look thru the telescope, but you can make reservations to see through the telescope on certain

Trip to Kitt Peak Observatory

evenings. If it is real windy they close the shells as objects can blow in and damage the mirrors if it is real windy.

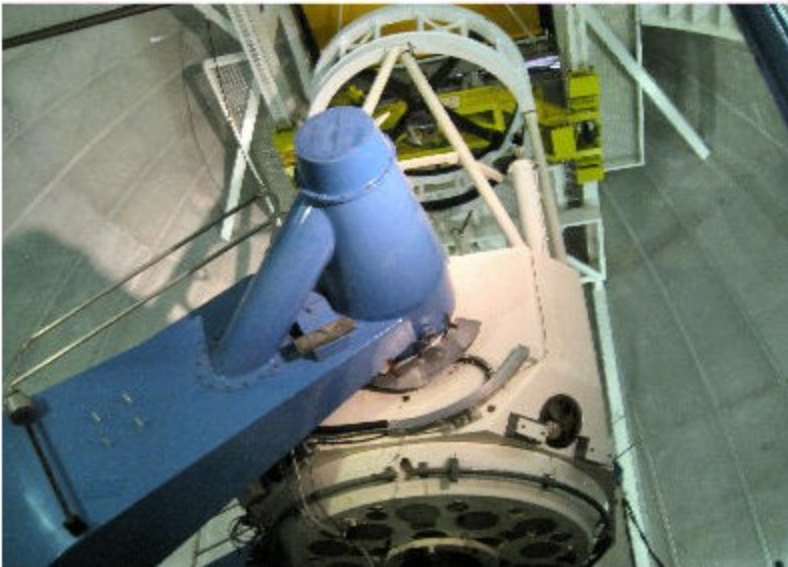


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Trip to Kitt Peak Observatory



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After the tour, we headed back down the mountain, a nice curvy road back to the state route, and then back towards Tucson. In Tucson we went straight east and went to one of the El Charro restaurants, (the original restaurant started serving in 1922) where we enjoyed a nice lunch on the patio. After that, we all headed back to Phoenix. Thank you to Walter and Michele for another nice road trip!

Sue Kulczycki



VETTE VIXENS FOR MAY

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE OF MAY VETTE VIXENS
DINNER!

TUESDAY, MAY 27TH!

AT TONTO BAR & GRILL
AT RANCHO MANANA IN CAVE CREEK

Cocktails at 6:30
Dinner at 7:00

Check the menu and other amenities on
http://www.azeats.com/tonto/vtour/tbg_scene1.htm



Thank You, Thank You,

*A great big THANK YOU to all who
contributed articles, photographs and/
or other items of interest to this issue of
the Newsletter! They are:*

*Mark Bales
Mike Cassel
Jim Dobson
Sue Kulczycki
Berny Rasch
John Runyon
Jack Weber*





ANOTHER ETHNIC EPICUREAN EXPERIENCE

Our Ethnic Epicurean Experience on Saturday evening, March 29th, was a delightful dinner at the Jade Palace at Hayden Road and Via de Ventura in Scottsdale. It was a busy evening at the Jade Palace, and SCC took up a lot of the restaurant. All the other tables were full, and the place was humming!



Another Ethnic Epicurean Experience

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Jim and I ended up at a table for four with Berny and Nancy Rasch, and we had a grand time ordering a number of different dishes from the menu, and sharing all of them. Nancy and I had the sizzling rice soup, which was excellent. We all shared two shrimp dishes, a filet mignon dish, a chicken dish and a fried rice dish - all of which were very tasty and well prepared.

It was indeed a fun evening - I think SCC had over thirty participants at this ethnic dining experience.

Another Ethnic Epicurean Experience



Another Ethnic Epicurean Experience

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I would certainly go back to the Jade Palace for another dinner - the food was delicious and the service was friendly and proficient. Another excellent Ethnic Epicurean Experience! Thank you, Walter and Michele, for arranging this evening for us!

Watch for the next Ethnic Epicurean Experience, coming up the end of June!

Dorinne



Gas Stations Of Yesteryear

Old American & Canadian Gas Stations
from all around the continent



Here is a vintage Esso Station in Canada submitted by Berny Rasch. Berny has the original print which he acquired about 40 years ago when he was redesigning gas stations.



62 « This looks like a typical small town station back in the day.

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This is one of Mark Bales' photos of a station in Illinois, on old Route 66. He says: "You can tell it was raining... Sitting in my '02 C5 at the time."



From John Runyon. Notice the kid jumping on the bell hose. Did you ever do that?

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BOOK REVIEW

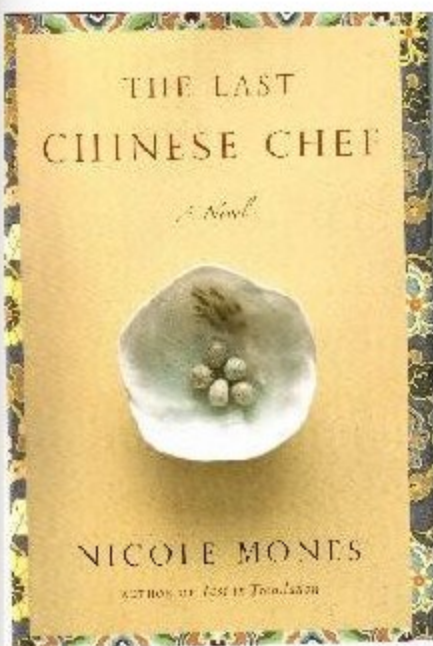
By Sue Kulczycki

About 6 months ago my book club decided to read "The Last Chinese Chef" by Nicole Mones. I had never read any of her other books, but she was the author of "Lost in Translation" which was made into a movie. I liked "Lost in Translation" but I did not love it, so I was a bit skeptical when I started this book.

The book's main character is Maggie, who we find out in the very beginning is a widowed American food writer still grieving one year after her husband's death. She is informed there is a claim against her late husband's estate and has to leave for Beijing right away, as a Chinese woman is claiming her child is Maggie's husband's child. Maggie asks for time off to investigate this matter, however her editor tells her there is a new rising Chinese American culinary star named Sam Liang in Beijing she should meet while in China. She is assigned the task of writing about Sam and the imperial style restaurant he will be soon opening.

Maggie goes to China and spends significant time with Sam and his extended family of uncles, etc, who are also accom-

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plished cooks. He shows her how he cooks, and why he does what he does, and Chinese food is described in a way that I have never seen before! Sam's description's of the food he cooks intertwines with social and food histories of China, and the intricacies of the cooking of the food are amazing. At the same time Maggie learns more about the child supposedly fathered by her husband.

This is a wonderful story, and many of you have heard me talking of this book. It was a book about travel in China, and you feel as if you really get into the culture of the area. While reading this book my mouth was often watering for the incredible dishes that were being cooked by Sam and I wished I could have been transported right then to eat some of that delicious food. If you enjoy travel, and you enjoy reading about food, you are really going to enjoy this book as it gave me a whole new understanding of China, its people and their food. And you may no longer be happy with your local Chinese restaurant!

**EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE
ROADRUNNER REGION OF NCCC**

May 17

Corvette Autocross Day
Corvette Club of Arizona
Low-speed Autocross, 8:00 a.m.
Phx. Muni. Stadium, SW Corner Priest & VanBuren
Contact: Debi Hamersly, LT4CE@YAHOO.COM

May 24-25

Rally, Drags, 2 Low-Speed Autocrosses
Super Bash - Tucson Corvette Club
Headquartered at Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson
Contact: Mike Brasher, Event Chair (520) 298-6426

June 21-27

49th Annual NCCC Convention
Headquartered at Marriott Tulsa Southern Hills
in Tulsa, Oklahoma
Contact: Ron Ruston, Convention Director at
conventiondirector2008@corvettesnccc.org



!WANTED!

**PARTICIPANTS FOR THE TRIP TO
MONUMENT VALLEY AND
PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO
ON JULY 17-20, 2008!**

**Walter needs commitments from
YOU THE MEMBERSHIP before he
can start making arrangements for
this trip. If there is not enough
interest, the trip will not happen!**

**PLEASE, EVERYONE, CHECK YOUR
CALENDARS TODAY AND CONTACT
WALTER TO LET HIM KNOW IF
YOU WANT TO MAKE THE JULY
TRIP!**

**THINK: COOL COUNTRY! JULY IN
PHOENIX! TELL YOURSELF: "I
NEED TO GET TO THE COOL
COUNTRY WITH SCC!"**

 **AN AMERICAN R=VOLUTION**



*For a great deal on any Chevy product, not only Corvette,
contact Jack Macrino, 480-570-1530
or Bob Ostapovich, 480-220-3242.*

For the best in service, contact Steve Nichols, 480-368-3949.

*Make sure you mention that you are with the
Scottsdale Corvette Club!*