



Gazette

THE VETTE SET, INC.
221 PASEO DE SUENOS
REDONDO BEACH, CA
90277

APRIL 2024



A Visit to the Lions Automobilia Museum

OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES

The Vette Set Gazette is a monthly publication of The Vette Set, Inc. Articles from members are always welcome, and are to be submitted to the Newsletter Editor by 6:00 P.M. Sunday, following the general monthly meeting. These meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum located at 610 Lairport Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. Guests are always welcome to attend any Vette Set event.

Vette Set Officers & Appointees

POSITION	OFFICE	NAME
OFFICERS	PRESIDENT	Dixie Foster
	VICE PRESIDENT	Chuck Hammer
	SECRETARY	Kathie Kovacs
	TREASURER	Michelle Grogan
	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Joe Cimino
APPOINTEES	ACTIVITIES	Jennifer Walton
	AMBASSADOR	Chris Donlou
	AMBASSADOR for NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM & ZIMMERMAN AUTOMOBILE DRIVING MUSEUM	George Person Jr.
	AWARDS BANQUET	Jeanette Weimer Diane Feher
	BY-LAWS	Jerry Clement
	CHARITY	Michelle Grogan Rob Weimer
	HISTORIAN	Sharon Cowley, Newsletter Bob Borge, Filmmaker
	NCCC GOVERNOR	Bruce Gaines
	NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Pat Cowley
	PROCUREMENT	Kim Foster
	RACE	David Tavares
	RAFFLE	Marcie O'Brien
	SUNSHINE	Pam St. Cyr
	TECH TALK	Lee Williams
	WEB MASTER	Raul Rodriguez

Outside contact can be made with:

1. President Dixie Foster, 310-488-1836, dixiekim@msn.com
2. Vice President Chuck Hammer, 310-874-6657, ballpien99@hotmail.com
3. Ambassador Chris Donlou, 310-245-9653, cdog34@msn.com



PREZ SEZ

Dixie Foster



This month the Club welcomed our newest member, **Dean Mathiowetz** and his 1957 Copper Corvette, into our membership.

Paul Toth coordinated a great tour of the *Lions Automobile Foundation & Museum* for 55 of our Vette Set members on March 23rd. Paul was unable to attend our April meeting to give a report so he wrote a poem to memorialize our day there. It follows:



**New member Dean Mathiowetz
with Dixie & Chuck**

A Day at the Lions Museum March 23, 2024

Beneath the cloak of rain, a journey did unfold,
The Vette Set from El Segundo, brave and bold.
Fifty-five souls ventured to the Lions Museum's grace,
Where car history and rubber once embraced

Coffee and donuts welcomed them, a diner's warm embrace,
Before they ventured deeper into the historic cars and race space.
Split into three, with docents to guide the way,
Through artifacts and echoes of cars and the dragstrip's heyday.

Lions Dragway, a quarter mile of legends told,
From the '50s to the '70s, where engines roared and rolled.
In the museum, they wandered, past cars that time did mold,
Into the shop, where stories of restoration were boldly retold.

The paint shop's hues, a palette of the past reborn,
Battered cars and dreams, no longer worn.
Then to the museum's diner, they gathered, stories and meals to share,
In camaraderie, they found, a bond beyond compare.

As we remember Hollywood cars like the one from *Thelma and Louise*
A colorful collection of Willys and a 1954 Corvette were a sight to see
As we saw dragsters and surprised motorcycles
with such ingenuity
But it's inside the shops where magic happens with endless capabilities

The Vette Set journey didn't end as they stepped out into the cloudy day,
To Knolls in Long Beach, where the cocktails lay.
In laughter and memories, their spirits did soar,
With the roar of dragsters and classic cars , in their hearts forevermore.

As the old car becomes the old new
The beauty of restoration provides a galvanizing view
A piece of jewelry is like a classic car
Something of beauty that always shines like a star

So from the museum's quiet to the buzz of Long Beach's night,
The Vette Set journeyed through time, with history in sight.



Paulspoems

Check out some great photos of our day below as well as those posted on both our Facebook site (The Vette Set, Inc.) and The Vette Set website at www.thevetteset.com .

“Save the Wave”

Dixie Foster

President

	<p>BYLAWS Jerry Clement</p>	
---	---	--

By Laws for the membership to consider and vote on at the next meeting:

ARTICLE X ACTIVITIES

SECTION 9 STANDING COMMITTEES

P. Ambassador: Responsible for greeting guests and potential members, advising them of the Club's activities, requirements for membership, and following up with them to answer any questions they might have.

Q. Tech Talk Editor: Responsible for giving presentations at Club meetings regarding automotive technical information that relates to Corvettes.

There will be discussion at the meeting regarding the final wording of these before voting.



RACE REPORT

David Tavares



3/15: 12 Hours of Sebring: The Corvette race teams ran in the IMSA Race Series at Sebring International Raceway in Sebring, FL. Pratt Miller and AWA Racing raced in the GTD Pro and GTD class. The Pratt Miller #3 and #4 Corvettes raced in GTD PRO class with drivers Antonio Garcia, Alexander Sims and Daniel Juncadella in the #3 car. The #4 car was piloted by Tommy Milner and Nicky Catsburg.

Sims, started the race in 9th place and swiftly ended in 1st place, 67 minutes into the race. Then Garcia drove a double stint behind the wheel, after which Juncadella put in a 3 hour run. However, a full-course caution and an unplanned pit stop for fuel set back the #3 car's momentum. Despite the setback, Juncadella maneuvered back to the front, with 70 minutes left in the race, only to face unfortunate contact with a Porsche, causing the Corvette to spin off the track and dashing hopes of a podium finish in the final minutes.

Meanwhile, the #4 Corvette grappled with persistent clutch issues, prompting a mid-race clutch part replacement and subsequent laps lost.

Race Results for the GTD PRO class: 1st: Lexus, 2nd: Ferrari, 3rd: Lamborghini, 10th: Corvette #3, 11th: #4 Corvette.

The AWA Racing team ran their #13 Corvette with drivers Orey Fidani, Matt Bell & Lars Kern. The #17 Corvette raced with drivers Anthony Mantella, Nico Varrone and Thomas Merrill. This was the 2nd race for AWA as part of Corvette program.

For some reason I could not discover, all the Z06 Corvettes started near the back of the pack due to a post-qualifying technical infraction. As the race began, the #13 car led all the Corvette Z06 GT3.R race cars, moving into 3rd place at one point. The race was primarily trouble free for the #13 car. But driver Lars did comment after the race that they didn't have the pace to compete with the top of the class and they needed to figure out why.

Regrettably, the #17 car faced an early retirement due to electrical issues.

Race Results for the GTD class: 1st: Mercedes, 2nd: Ferrari, 3rd: Porsche, 9th: #13 Corvette, 22nd: #17 Corvette.

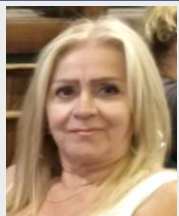
There were 22 cars in the GTD class.

4/20: Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach: This will be the next race for the AWA racing team in the GTD class.

4/21: 6 HOURS OF IMOLA: This Italian circuit will be the next race for TF Sport.

That's all I have for this month. Until next time, get out there and drive your Vettes everyone!

David



RAFFLES

Marci O'Brien



Club Meeting Drawing Winners

Name Badge Drawing (\$20):
John Noel, not present
Next month, \$40

50/50 Drawing (\$360 collected):
Anton Wijenayake, \$180
TVS Club, \$180

Marci



SUNSHINE

Pam St. Cyr



April Birthdays



4/02 Dan Rosen
4/11 Ken Morelock

April Anniversaries



4/13 Don Gras & Teena Chan
4/18 Dixie & Kim Foster
4/30 Dave & Pam St. Cyr

Pam



ACTIVITIES

Jennifer Walton



VETTE SET ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

April 4 -- General Meeting at 6:30pm at the Automobile Driving Museum, located at 610 Lairport St, in El Segundo. We head over to Slice 'n Pint afterwards. Please bring books or magazines for Carolyn Shofner to donate to those less fortunate.

April 17 -- Activities Dinner Meeting at 6pm at Rebel Republic Social House, located at 1710 S. Catalina Ave, Redondo Beach 90277. ***Please arrive @ 5:30 to secure tables near each other. They're very busy on Wednesdays but the deals and the food are worth it. Everyone is welcome. Bring your well researched ideas for club runs or activities.

April 25 -- Ladies' Luncheon at 11:30am at El Torito, 23225 Hawthorne Bl, Torrance 90505. RSVP to Jeanette at (310) 941-7062, Forjweimer@me.com

May 2 -- General Meeting at 6:30pm at the Automobile Driving Museum, located at 610 Lairport St, in El Segundo. We head over to Slice 'n Pint afterwards. Please bring books or magazines for Carolyn Shofner to donate to those less fortunate.

May 15 -- Activities Dinner Meeting at 6pm. Location TBD. Bring your well researched ideas for club runs or activities.

May 25 -- All Corvette Car Show 10-2 at the Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum in El Segundo.

May 30-- Ladies' Luncheon at 11:30am at El Torito, 23225 Hawthorne Bl, Torrance 90505. RSVP to Jeanette at (310) 941-7062, Forjweimer@me.com

July 4 -- 4th of July Parade in Long Beach. Jennifer Walton will provide more details soon.

September 21-29 -- Club Run led by Rob Weimer to Tombstone, Sedona and Prescott, Arizona. Includes participating in the All Corvette Car Show, a party at Hal Vatcher's home, a poker run and street dance in Prescott, AZ. More details TBA.

December 12 -- Annual Vette Set Holiday Party. Save the date. Details TBA.

ONLINE VETTE SET CLUB PRESENCE

1. Visit our Vette Set **WEBSITE**: <https://www.thevetteset.com/>

2. Visit our Vette Set **FACEBOOK PAGE**: <https://www.facebook.com/TheVetteSetInc/>

**On our club's Facebook page, you may view photos our club members have posted of our runs and activities. You may comment on those photos and participate. Facebook Events are created for the major activities so you may RSVP or comment.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES NOT SPONSORED BY THE VETTE SET

1. April, 2024 -- 7 day Corvette Pirates Cruise to Caribbean! What's more fun than being on a cruise with 50-100 Corvette people from all over the country? Bring 2 Hot Wheels Corvettes. One is for a car show held in the bar they take over, so there's liquor involved! LOL! The second car is for the drag races on another day in the bar. Then there's Pirate Night when most wear Pirate costumes to dinner in the main dining room. Contact Laurie TEX Schwab vettetex@gmail.com, (602) 790-5788, www.corvettepirates.com
2. Culver City Car Show – May 11, 9-3. For more info, visit www.culvercitycarshow.com
3. Cruise at the Beach (formerly Ruby's Diner Car Show) -- 22nd Annual Car Show runs June 7-Sept 6 at the Redondo Beach Marina, 811 N. Catalina Ave, Redondo Beach 902774
4. Relay for Life of Torrance Car Show -- Sunday, July 21, 9-3 at Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Bl, Redondo Beach 90278. For more info, contact Annette Porter, ampdynomom@aol.com, (310) 245-4502.
5. Every Friday -- Garden Grove Car Show held on Main Street in Old Town Garden Grove 4-8pm. Entry \$3/car. David Tavares (562) 308-0390 or Jennifer Walton (562) 544-2670.
6. Every Saturday -- Caffeine Cruisers from 7-10am in Torrance, on SE corner of Artesia and Hawthorne, between Dave's Hot Chicken (formerly Starbucks) & Sizzler.
7. 1st Saturday of the month -- Morning Shift Cars & Coffee at 8am at Porsche Experience Center, 19800 Main St, Carson 90745. All makes and models. Photographers & spectators are welcome. For general info, call (888)204-7474. No fees. Free coffee. Call before going.
8. 1st Saturday of the month -- Cars & Coffee from 7:30-9:30am, at new location: Palos Verdes (PV) Peninsula High School, 27118 Silver Spur Rd, Rolling Hills Estates 90274. For more info, email club member Lee Williams at area51ufopilot@yahoo.com or PenCnC1@gmail.com August theme is Muscle Cars and Hot Rods.
9. Last Saturday of the month -- Manhattan Beach Cars & Coffee, 7:30-10am at 'The Point' Shopping Center, 850 S. Sepulveda, at the corner of Sepulveda and Rosecrans in Manhattan Beach. Enter from Rosecrans. Started by two Mira Costa high school students. Lots of C8s, C7s and earlier model Corvettes plus a huge array of other cars including old beaters. FREE.

Jennifer



NCM AMBASSADOR & SPONSOR RELATIONS

George M. Person, Jr.



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

350 Corvette Drive • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • Phone (270) 781-7973 • Fax (270) 781-5286 • corvettemuseum.org

EVENTS

April 25, 2024. 27th Annual Michelin NCM Bash.

June 8-18, 2024. Museum in Motion Le Mans Tour. Arrive in Paris, they will spend two nights in Normandy before they travel to Angers where they will stay throughout the Le Mans race.

The next three days will have you visiting the Le Circuit de la Sarthe (Le Mans track) as well as the town of Angers. Monday, they will depart Angers to visit Chartres and its Cathedral and on to Paris for one last free afternoon. Check out of the hotel and continue with your plans of either more travel or to the airport. Hotels, ground transportation, tour tickets, all breakfasts, some meals, Le Mans general admission

August 29, 2024. Corvette Caravan and 30th Anniversary Celebration @ National Corvette Museum.

WIN A CORVETTE!

- 1. 2024 Riptide Blue Corvette Coupe 4/18/2024**
Price: **\$150.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 670
Drawing: April 18, 2024 2:00 PM Central Time
- 2. 2024 Build Your Own Corvette Stingray or \$85,000 4/26/2024**
Price: **\$250.00** Tickets: 1500 Available: 1073
Drawing: April 26, 2024 3:00 PM Central Time
- 3. 2024 Red Mist Corvette Convertible 4/27/2024**
Drawing: Apr 27, 2024 3:00 PM Central Time
- 4. 2024 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Convertible 5/16/2024**
Drawing: May 16, 2024 2:00 PM Central Time

The Zimmerman



Sat April 13 @ 9 am - 12 pm

Net Cruze Cars & Coffee

The car meet features cars from the '30s through the '50s, both original and custom cars, as well as newer and older cars and trucks. Enjoy coffee and pastries, plus a food truck.



Sat April 20, 5pm – 9pm

El Segundo Beer, Wine & Spirits Festival

Join them and the El Segundo Rotary Club on April 20th at the Zimmerman for the El Segundo Beer, Wine & Spirits Festival. Enjoy all-inclusive tastings from fantastic craft breweries, wineries, and restaurants, held in the Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum, where you will enjoy viewing over 100+ vintage vehicles. Get Tickets at the Zimmerman. Must be over 21.



Sat April 27th, from 9 am to noon

Net Cruze Cars and Coffee

The car meet features cars from the '30s through the '50s, both original and custom cars, as well as newer and older cars and trucks. Enjoy coffee and pastries, plus a food truck and a raffle drawing for cash prizes, gas cards, and other prizes. The event is free to attend and everyone is welcome! Additionally, the museum will open early at 9 am (donations are still requested for museum admission).



Saturday, May 11th, from 9 am to noon

Net Cruze Cars and Coffee

The car meet features cars from the '30s through the '50s, both original and custom cars, as well as newer and older cars and trucks. Enjoy coffee and pastries, plus a food truck and a raffle drawing for cash prizes, gas cards, and other prizes. The event is free to attend and everyone is welcome! Additionally, the museum will open early at 9 am (donations are still requested for museum admission).

PENINSULA CARS 'N COFFEE

EVERY FIRST SATURDAY



**NEW LOCATION: PV PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
27118 SILVER SPUR ROAD
NORTH PARKING LOT
7:30 – 9:00 AM**

Please contact us at PenCnC1@gmail.com

HISTORICAL REPORT

LADIES LUNCHEON
EL TORITO, 23225 HAWTHORNE BLVD, TORRANCE
THURSDAY, MAR. 28, 2024



Lunch was at 11:30 am. They looked good from both ends of the table.

LIONS AUTOMOBILIA FOUNDATION & MUSEUM
2790 E DEL AMO BLVD, RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, 90221
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

Paul Toth organized a club run to the Lions Automobilia Foundation and Museum, located at 2790 E. Del Amo Blvd, Rancho Dominguez, 90221 (borders Long Beach). We met at 8-8:15am at Krispy Kreme, 1199 Artesia BL, Gardena 90248 and left at 8:30am. Chris Donlou led the run to Lions where we met other members at the museum.



The Lions Automobilia Foundation and Museum was founded in December 2019 by Southern California businessman and car enthusiast, Rick Lorenzen. It's nearly 100,000 sq. ft. facility includes galleries featuring Southern California's infamous car culture and motorsports history. The experience begins as visitors walk in thru a 1960's speed shop with genuine parts hanging off the walls and then enter the Main Street

Gallery lined with classic automobiles parked in front of a 1950's diner. The visitor experience has been described as mind-blowing, as each gallery reveals the human experience with the automobile. Lions is more than just a museum. The Lions Automobilia Foundation takes preserving automotive history to the next level with its onsite restoration facility. As visitors walk through the galleries, they will find that many of the vehicles on display were restored by the Lions Team.



Ruly and Oscar



Joe and Dean



Chris had a meeting in the rain before departing to the museum. His instructions were plain and simple: "Follow my big white truck."



Parked the cars and eager to enter.



Our group of 55 was divided into three groups, each given a docent led tour.



As soon as they entered, Dixie & Kim felt at home.



Later, Dixie tried to contact Adam West using a vintage mobile phone.





After viewing 100,000 sqft of excellent exhibits, we were tired and ready for lunch.



Paul, thanks for planning this fun event. It was a real eye-opener going inside those industrial buildings and finding this automotive treasure.

Pat

GARY GABELICH

Editor's note: For TVS member, Stephanie Bloom, the visit to the Lions museum was also personal. Her first cousin, Gary Gabelich, was a driver and is a member of the Lion's Hall of Fame. The following was provided by Stephanie.

I would like to thank Paul & Lynda Toth for arranging our run to the Lions museum. I had never heard of it & was curious to know if they had any info about my 1st cousin, Gary Gabelich.

I was thrilled to find several exhibits pertaining to him as well as his name as the driver of both the Beach City Corvette funny car & a drag boat.



Stephanie and the Beach City Corvette Funny Car driven by her cousin, Gary Gabelich.



Drag boat driven by Gary Gabelich.

Gary was born in San Pedro to a Croatian father & a Mexican-American mother in 1940. He tragically lost his life in 1984 on Western Ave in San Pedro. He packed a lot of living in those short 44 years.

Some of the highlights were:

- Started racing at 16 in Stock Eliminator drag racing in Santa Ana winning 1st place. (According to mother he raced around Pedro before he was old enough to drive legally.)
- At 19 won the world's first jet dragster race at 250 mph.

- Drove the red Beach City Corvette funny car over 200 mph. It is on display at Lions currently.
- In 1959 at the Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah went 356 mph in a jet car (he was 19).
- 1963 - won 1st United Drag Racing Assoc. title driving a Double A Fuel dragster,
- Worked at North American Rockwell as a test astronaut on the Apollo Project. I remember being told he sat in a centrifuge at a high rate of speed to test what that kind of speed did to the body .
- 1968 - Won American Power Boat Assoc. fuel hydro championship & the following year set a National Drag Boat Assoc. record of 200.44 mph.
- 1970 - Set the land speed record at 622.407 mph in the Blue Flame rocket car in Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. He held that record until 1983
- He was inducted into the Long Beach Motorsport Walk of Fame in 2008 & the Lions Hall of Fame in 2023.



Being severely injured several times in both race cars & drag boats did not stop him. He was a lover of high speeds & dangerous challenges. Like Maverick in Top Gun he had "a need, a need for speed".

RIP cuz.

Stephanie

