



# Gazette

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

JUNE 2022



**Gambler's Classic, Grand Canyon Train  
and Sedona/Winslow Tour**

# 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

OFFICE	NAME
PRESIDENT	Rob Weimer
VICE PRESIDENT	Chuck Hammer
SECRETARY	Anton Wijenayake
TREASURER	John Tully
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Harry Kenyon
ACTIVITIES	Jennifer Walton
AMBASSADOR	Chris Donlou
AWARDS BANQUET	Dixie Foster
BY-LAWS	Jerry Clement
CHARITY	Linda Tully
FILMMAKER	Bob Borge
HISTORIAN	Sharon Cowley
N.C. MUSEUM AMBASSADOR	George Person
NCCC GOVERNOR	Bruce Gaines
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Pat Cowley
PROCUREMENT	Kim Foster
RACE	David Tavares
RAFFLE	Emma Dela Cerna
SPONSOR RELATIONS	George Person
SUNSHINE	Dixie Foster
WEB MASTER	Raul Rodriguez

Outside contact can be made with:

1. President Rob Weimer, 310-941-7061, [robert.a.weimer@me.com](mailto:robert.a.weimer@me.com)
2. Vice President Chuck Hammer, 310-874-6657, [ballpien99@hotmail.com](mailto:ballpien99@hotmail.com)
3. Ambassador Chris Donlou, 310-245-9653, [cdog34@msn.com](mailto:cdog34@msn.com)

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# PREZ SEZ

Rob Weimer



Hi Vette Setters,

Our club is experiencing an increase in participation at our activities. Our May activity dinner had about 30 people, our June General Meeting had 50 people, and we had 6 guests that are very interested in becoming members. I'm very pleased with this increased interest in our club, it's a team effort of our officers and committee chairs that that allows for a fun and entertaining club.

I'm looking forward to Harry's Strawberry run on the 18th and our activity dinner that will include bowling if you dare try. We also have the July 4th parade and after party at Jennifer's. Future runs to Pine Mountain Club in July and Hal's Reno-Redding run should be great trips, don't hesitate to sign up as these activities are filling up fast.

On May 28, 2022, the Zimmerman Automobile Driving Museum had an all Corvette Show at their museum in El Segundo. The Vette Set had seventeen cars entered in the show with five winners. Those were: Bonnie Gay's "Beast" (modified C2), prospective member Bo's C7 Rally Sport, Bob's C4, Kim's C1 and Chris & Kelly's C7 ZR1.

El Segundo's Main Street Car show is on August 20th this year, it would be great to have The Vette Set make a grand showing there this year.

Kim Foster now has our window decal available for just \$5 each, show your pride of being a Member of our fantastic club by placing one on each rear side window.

If you pass another Corvette on the road, wave to them, keep the wave alive.

*Rob*



**Winners: Bonnie Gay, Bo, Bob, Kim and Chris & Kelly**



# ACTIVITIES

## Jennifer Walton



### VETTE SET ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June 2 -- General Meeting at 6:30pm at the Automobile Driving Museum, located at 610 Lairport St., in El Segundo 90245 AND ON ZOOM with social time starting @ 6pm. ZOOM ID: 833-9353-3282. Password: CORVETTE (all caps). Heading to Slice 'n Pint afterwards.

June 15 -- Activities Dinner Meeting at 6pm at Jack's Place, inside the Gable House Bowl, 22501 Hawthorne Bl, Torrance 90505. \*\*Upon entry, place your order at the Snack Bar (good choices!) and then sit at the inside restaurant: "Jack's Place" with full bar. Bring your bowling ball and bowling shoes if you want to play afterwards. We will get a discount and it's a lot of fun! Bring your well-researched ideas for new activities and runs.

July 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Long Beach. Meet at Jennifer Walton's house, 4029 Locust Ave, Long Beach, 90807 at 9:15am. Decorate your cars with your own Patriotic (non-political) decorations. At 9:30am, we head north 1 block to the staging area for the short parade that starts at 10am and ends at Los Cerritos Park. Festivities there include free hot dogs, water, gunny sack races and water balloon toss. Club is invited to swim and hang out afterwards.

July 7 -- General Meeting at 6:30pm at the Automobile Driving Museum, located at 610 Lairport St, in El Segundo 90245 AND ON ZOOM with social time starting @ 6pm. ZOOM ID: 833-9353-3282. Password: CORVETTE (all caps). Heading to Slice 'n Pint afterwards.

July 17-19, 2022 -- Rob Weimer and Jack Walter lead your choice of a 1 day or 3 day run "**Exploring Hidden Gems in the Local Mountains**". Join Rob and Jack in touring Pine Mountain Club and the surrounding areas including Mt. Pinos, the San Emigdio Mountains, the Cuyama Valley and the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, home of the California Condors. Day 1, we'll journey 90 miles north of LAX and enjoy a potluck picnic at a beautiful private park followed by an 80 mile drive through the Los Padres National Forest including the scenic Lockwood Valley. Group dinner at the private Pine Mountain Club. Day 2 will be your choice of golf, tennis, swimming or hiking at Pine Mountain Club facilities in the morning, followed by a drive up over 800 ft to the summit of Cerro Noroeste and a backroads trip through the wildlife refuge. Group dinner at the PMC Clubhouse. Day 3 will feature driving through the Cuyama Valley and lunch in Ojai with a return home along the beach from Ventura. Lodging and dining options are VERY LIMITED

in PMC, therefore **ADVANCED RESERVATIONS** will be **REQUIRED** if you wish to participate in the 3 day option. Jack will have ALL available PMC hotel/inn rooms reserved for TVS use and they will be allocated to members upon Jack's receipt of your deposit. Lodging options include booking your own Airbnb in PMC or commuting 18 miles to Lebec where there's a Motel 6 and Holiday Inn. Questions to Rob Weimer

[rob.a.weimer@me.com](mailto:rob.a.weimer@me.com). Lodging requests to Jack Walter at [j13walter@gmail.com](mailto:j13walter@gmail.com).

July 20 -- Activities Dinner Meeting at 6pm. Location TBA. Bring your well-researched ideas for new activities and runs.

August 21 or 28 -- Vette Set Annual Picnic & Yard Sale Club Fundraiser 11-2 with exact date to be chosen by the membership. Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Bl, Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275. Bring any yard sale items including car-related items. Bring tables or blankets for your items. Have things clearly marked with pricing and bring small bills for change.

September 9-18 -- Vette Set 'Reno to Redding' California Cruise, led by former Club President, Hal Vatcher. Cruise will take us to Lone Pine, then to Reno to see Mammoth Lakes and the National Automotive Museum, continuing to Redding to see Shasta Park and Dam, Whiskeytown Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park plus Lake Shasta Dinner Cruise. Also included is a drive to Gilroy and touring the northern coastal areas of Monterey and Carmel. Shortened miles per day, multiple days in all key areas, group events and activities planned and group social time. Sign up ASAP by emailing [hal@vatcher.com](mailto:hal@vatcher.com) so he can email you a registration form. Spots are limited. Hal is also reached at (310) 594-4615.

### **EXTRA ACTIVITIES NOT SPONSORED BY THE VETTE SET**

1. Sunday, June 5 – Classic car show called Cruzin 4 Brews II from 10-3 in Downtown (Old Town) Torrance across from Honda HQ. Park next to Honda HQ on Van Ness. There will be live music, vendors, a beer garden, and many restaurants. Register on line \$30 per car. [splegendscarclub.com](http://splegendscarclub.com).
2. Sunday, July 10 -- Inaugural Relay for Life Car Show. Benefits American Cancer Society. Held 9-3 at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Bl, Redondo Beach 90278. INFO: Annette Porter, [ampdynomom@aol.com](mailto:ampdynomom@aol.com)
3. Every Friday -- Season 21: Cruise to the Beach, Redondo Beach's Legacy Car Show, formerly Ruby's Diner Car Show, starts June 3- Sept 30, from 3-7pm at 245 N. Harbor Dr, Redondo Beach, 90277. Show features live music, trophies, 50/50 Raffle, and great food.
4. Every Friday -- Garden Grove Car Show held on Main Street in Old Town Garden Grove 4-8pm. Entry \$3/car. For info, call David Tavares at (562) 308-0390 or Jennifer Walton (562) 544-2670.

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4. Every Friday -- Garden Grove Car Show held on Main Street in Old Town Garden Grove 4-8pm. Entry \$3/car. For info, call David Tavares at (562) 308-0390 or Jennifer Walton (562) 544-2670.

5. Every Saturday -- Caffeine Cruisers from 7-10am in Torrance, on SE corner of Artesia and Hawthorne, between Starbucks & Sizzler.
6. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
7. **CORRECTION:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month -- Cars & Coffee from 7:30-9:30am, at Peninsula Shopping Center, 67 Peninsula Center, Rolling Hills Estates, 90274. For more info, email club member Lee Williams at [area51ufopilot@yahoo.com](mailto:area51ufopilot@yahoo.com).
8. Last Saturday of the month -- Manhattan Beach Cars & Coffee from 7:30-10am located at 'The Point' Shopping Center, 850 S. Sepulveda, at the corner of Sepulveda and Rosecrans in Manhattan Beach. Enter from Rosecrans. Started by two high school students at Mira Costa HS. Lots of C8s, C7s, and earlier model Corvettes plus a huge array of other cars including old beaters. FREE!
9. Saturday, November 12 – Vettes for Veterans All Corvette Car Show in Carlsbad, hosted by North Coast Vettes to honor San Diego area veterans. Proceeds go to Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Semper Fi America Fund. Info: [www.northcoastvettes.org](http://www.northcoastvettes.org)

### **NEW IDEAS FOR CLUB RUNS**

1. Nethercutt Museum/Peterson Automotive Museum, Gary Gaffney
2. Filling Station/Antique Stores, Gary Gaffney/Jennifer Walton
3. Mullin Museum, Oxnard: Private tours T/Th plus two Saturdays/month, Hal Holzman
4. Central Coast Trip to Mullin Museum, Island Beach (?), Cachuma Lake, Solvang
5. Saturday run to San Antonio Winery in LA, Bill Molinelli/Dennis Chance

### **ONLINE VETTE SET CLUB**

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



**The Vette Set**  
**Reno-Redding Corvette Tour**  
**09/09/2022 to 09/18/2022**



## **A 10 Day Corvette Cruise** *Itinerary* (subject to change)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Friday-09/09</b>	<b>Overnight in Lone Pine CA</b>	<b>Drive to Lone Pine CA Group dinner at The Grill</b>
<b>Saturday-09/10</b>	<b>Overnight in Reno NV</b>	<b>Drive to Reno NV Lunch at Mammoth Lakes</b>
<b>Sunday-09/11</b>	<b>Overnight in Reno NV</b>	<b>National Automotive Museum Walking Tour of Riverwalk Area Toucan Charlies Buffet Dinner</b>
<b>Monday-09/12</b>	<b>Overnight in Reno NV</b>	<b>Visit Virginia City Group Dinner (TBD)</b>
<b>Tuesday-09/13</b>	<b>Overnight in Redding CA</b>	<b>Drive to Redding CA Lunch at JJ Café</b>
<b>Wednesday-09/14</b>	<b>Overnight in Redding CA</b>	<b>Sundial Bridge Shasta State Historic Park Whiskeytown Lake Picnic Lunch Shasta Dam</b>
<b>Thursday-09/15</b>	<b>Overnight in Redding CA</b>	<b>Lassen Volcanic National Park Picnic Lunch Lake Shasta Dinner Cruise</b>
<b>Friday-09/16</b>	<b>Overnight in Gilroy CA</b>	<b>Drive to Gilroy CA</b>
<b>Saturday-09/17</b>	<b>Overnight in Gilroy CA</b>	<b>Tour Monterey/Carmel Area Dinner at Black Bear</b>
<b>Sunday-09/18</b>	<b>Drive Home</b>	<b>Drive Home</b>

*This year's September Corvette Cruise will be limited to 15 cars.*

*If you are interested in participating in this cruise, please email Hal Vatcher to obtain a registration form. [hal@vatcher.com](mailto:hal@vatcher.com) Registration is \$25.*



## NCM AMBASSADOR & SPONSOR RELATIONS

George M. Person, Jr.



### Corvette Raffles



#### 2023 70th Anniversary White Convertible 6/16/2022

Price: \$200.00 Tickets: 1500 Available

Drawing: June 16, 2022 2:00 PM CT



#### 2023 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Coupe 7/14/2022

Price: \$100.00 Tickets: 2000 Available

Drawing : July 14, 2022 2:00 PM CT



#### 2023 Build Your Own Corvette or \$80,000 7/28/2022

Price: \$250.00 Tickets: 1500 Available

Drawing: July 28, 2022 2:00 PM Central Time



#### 2023 Arctic White Corvette Convertible VIN #0001 9/2/2022

Price: \$300.00 Tickets: 2023 Available

Drawing: September 2, 2022 3:00 PM CT



#### 2023 Red Mist Corvette Coupe 9/3/2022

Price: \$20.00 Unlimited Raffle

Drawing: September 3, 2022 3:00 PM CT



# SUNSHINE

Dixie Foster



Happy  
Birthdays



## June Birthdays

- 6/3 Anton Wijenayake
- 6/9 Chuck Hammer
- 6/11 Bob Chidsey
- 6/11 Caroline Nakamura
- 6/19 John La Bella
- 6/22 Carolyn Shofner
- 6/29 Marlis Popovich

Happy  
Anniversary



## June Anniversaries

- 6/10 Bob Chidsey &  
Caroline Nakamura
- 6/20 Daniela & Ed Lesnansky
- 6/21 Dianna Showaker-Bangs  
& Tom Malone
- 6/22 Howell & Nikky Jaynes
- 6/24 Bill & Kathie Kovacs

# 2022 RACE SCHEDULE



~~JAN 21 - JAN 23 | ROAR BEFORE THE ROLEX 24~~

~~Daytona Beach, FL~~



~~JAN 27 - JAN 30 | ROLEX 24 AT DAYTONA~~

~~Daytona Beach, FL~~



~~MAR 16 - MAR 19 | MOBIL 1 TWELVE HOURS OF SEBRING~~

~~Sebring, FL~~



~~APRIL 8 - APRIL 9 | ACURA GRAND PRIX OF LONG ISLAND~~

~~Long Beach, CA~~



~~APRIL 29 - MAY 1 | WEATHERTECH RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA~~

~~Monterey, CA~~



~~MAY 13 - MAY 15 | MID-OHIO SPORTS CAR CHALLENGE~~

~~Lexington, OH~~



~~JUNE 3 - JUNE 4 | CHEVROLET DETROIT GRAND PRIX~~

~~Detroit, MI~~



~~JUNE 23 - JUNE 26 | SAHLEN'S SIX HOURS OF THE GLEN~~

~~Watkins Glen, NY~~



~~AUG 5 - AUG 7 | IMSA SPORTSCAR WEEKEND~~

~~Elkhart Lake, WI~~



~~AUG 26 - AUG 28 | MICHELIN GT CHALLENGE AT VIR~~

~~Alton, VA~~



~~SEP 28 - OCT 1 | MOTUL PETIT LE MANS~~

~~Braselton, GA~~

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# HISTORICAL REPORT I

## GAMBLERS' CLASSIC, GRAND CANYON TRAIN AND SEDONA/WINSLOW TOUR

MAY 13-18, 2022

**Friday, May 13.** At 9:30 am we met at Krispy Kreme on Artesia. At 10:00 am we left for Barstow with empty bladders and full gas tanks. In Barstow we pulled off I15 at the Lenwood Road exit and had lunch at Chili's Restaurant. At 1:00 pm we left for Laughlin/Bullhead City. When we reached our hotel, the Corvettes in the Gambler's Classic were in the lot at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino.



**A room with a river view**

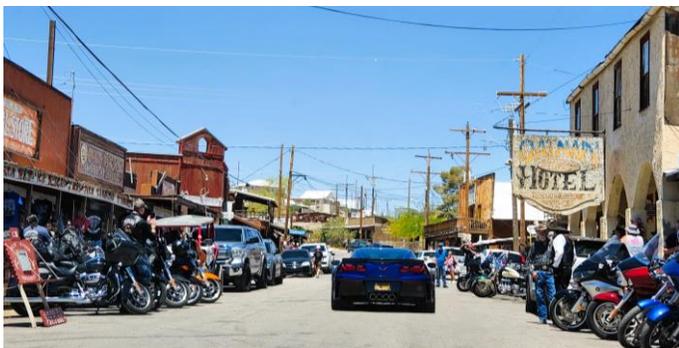
**Saturday, May 14.** Those who wanted to went to the Corvette Car show at Riverside Casino. Later, at 10:45 am, we met at IHOP in Bullhead where we assembled for a Club Cruise thru Oatman. The first one at IHOP was Hal Vatcher, who met us in his latest acquisition: a C7 convertible that is the same color as his C1 convertible and his daughter's C5, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convertible.



**It was hot on the drive to Oatman.**



**Outside Oatman Jerry & Marcie were greeted by a burro. Jerry's plate spoke for them.**



**We drove through Oatman...**



**...followed by an enjoyable ride on Route 66.**

After the fun ride on Route 66 we headed for lunch at Dr. D'z Route 66 Diner located at 105 E. Andy Devine Avenue in Kingman, AZ. To do this we first had to drive on a gravel road that was under construction. The sign said the road was to be treated with oil and gravel. Apparently, the price of oil went up and they only had money for the gravel. (Editor's note: In some sections, his C6 air dam was being used as a grader for the parts with a high gravel center section.)



**Group photo at Mr. D'z.**

In Kingman, we had lunch at Mr. D'z. After a group photo at the restaurant, we walked across Route 66 for another group photo under the Route 66 sign.



**Another group photo across the street from Dr. D'z.**



**The race to get a Route 66 photo-op was won by Rob & Jeanette**

Next to the Route 66 sign is the Route 66 Museum which was visited by the members. Later we departed to our hotel rooms. At 6:00 pm we had dinner reservations at El Charro Restaurant on Hwy 95 in Bullhead City.

**Sunday, May 15.** At 10:00 am we met at IHOP and traveled through Kingman and Hackberry on the way to Seligman for lunch at the Roadkill Cafe. Our first stop was Hackberry.



### Rest Stop at Hackberry

From Seligman we took Hwy 40 East to Williams. We checked into Best Western, Williams, for 3 nights. Rob suggested that we enjoy a self-guided driving or walking tour of Williams town. Well that didn't happen. The group organized a happy hour in the hotel patio. It started out as a small circle of chairs and grew larger as additional members joined the group. Initially, the temperature on the patio was warm. Later, the gas firepit was lit to counter the cooler evening temperatures at high altitude.



**Happy hour at the Best Western Hotel in Williams, AZ started in the afternoon and ended in the evening.**

**Monday, May 16.** We took the train to Grand Canyon which was a first for many members. After a wild west show near the depot, we boarded the train in Williams at 9:30 am and arrived at Grand Canyon at 11:45. During the ride, we were entertained with live music with a western flavor. We had a three hour layover which consisted of a bus tour of the Grand Canyon vista sites followed by a self guided tour which included lunch.



**Western show before departure.**



**Music on the train.**



**Grand Canyon view.**



**Made in the shade.**



**Our ride back to the hotel.**

When we departed for the hotel, we were told that the train might be stopped by train robbers demanding money. We noticed that Reata had fallen asleep and a couple of dollars were in the top of her blouse. When asked, husband Dennis had no idea how it got there. The robbers came and left. At this point, it is unclear if they got the money or not.



**"Sleeping Beauty" Reata with Dennis.**



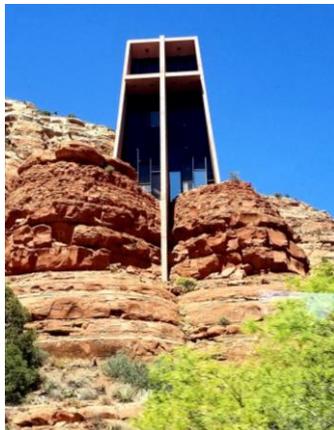
**Two of the train robbers.**

That night we had a group dinner at the Best Western Steak House with drinks at 6:30 pm and dining at 7:00 pm. For their excellent job of planning the trip, the group paid for the dinners of Hal, Rob and Jeanette. It was a great day.

**Tuesday, May 17.** At 8:30 am twelve members of the group drove to Sedona to a Jeep rental ([www.redrockrubicon.com](http://www.redrockrubicon.com)) to go on a self-guided, off-road tour in 4-door Rubicon Jeeps. The “Jeepsters” had lunch in Café Jose. As an alternative, others could join Hal on a cruise to Meteor Crater, then to Winslow, AZ for a “Stand on the Corner” photo-op and have lunch at La Posada Restaurant. Both groups returned to Williams and spent night at Best Western Hotel.



**David**



**Chapel of the Holy Cross.**



**Valley view from the chapel.**



**Jeeps and riders taking a break.**



**Rob & Jeanette.**



**Sunset.**



**Post-sunset photo before heading to Williams.**

The next day, we left Williams. Some headed for home, others for Laughlin. Hal went to Moab to visit friends. It was a great trip. Many thanks, Rob & Hal. *Pat*

# HISTORICAL REPORT II

## ROCKIES ROUNDUP SEPTEMBER 9-19, 2021

Hal Vatcher and Charlie McMannis planned and organized this run to the Colorado Rockies. Hal put together a spectacular trip guide which included hotels and points of interest along the way. For days where there was a layover, the guide described multiple activities that could be explored. This guide could also serve as a reference for future runs if members want to go back and see what they missed.

**Day 1, September 9.** Rob Weimer led members of The Vette Set from the LA area to Laughlin, NV for their first night stop. It was not without incident: Whitford's clutch acted up and Cowley's rear tire picked up a nail. Both were fixed before the group pulled out the following morning. Was it hot in Laughlin that day? Yes, temperatures reached 117 °F in the afternoon.



**We had clear skies and cumulous clouds as we left LA.**



**Lunch at Chilis in Barstow. We met a couple belonging to a Lotus club.**

**Day 2, September 10.** We departed Laughlin towards Flagstaff. We took Interstate 40 which parallels Route 66. Again, we enjoyed beautiful, cloud filled skies and had lunch in Seligman, AZ.



**Great scenery on the way to Flagstaff.**



**Lunch was in Seligman on Route 66.**

At our hotel in Flagstaff, we had a "meet & greet" happy hour around the pool. There we met others joining our run: 12 members of the O.C. Vette Club and Pat's cousin Jim with Naomi. We were also greeted by a current AZ resident, former TVS president and all around good guy, Santiago Chavez.

**Day 3, September 11.** On day 3, we left Flagstaff and headed to Moab for a two night stay. We drove through Monument Valley which included a stop at the Cameron Trading Post and a look at the Little Colorado River Gorge on our way to Moab. There we were joined by Hal Vatcher and Paul and Elaine Benthuis.



**Raul, Ken, John L., Linda, John T. & Sharon at the Cameron Trading Post.**



**Marcie & Jeanette at the Moab cocktail hour.**

**Day 4, September 12.** We woke up in Moab with a day to participate in some of the activities described in Hal's guide. The Tullys, the Cowleys and Anton chose a scenic airplane ride.



**Logo on Moab hanger.**



**John, Linda, Anton, Sharon and Pat:  
Safe and back on the ground.**

In the afternoon, the Cowleys, Naomi and Jim drove around looking at the local rock formations.



Our first group dinner was held at the Canyon Steak and Waffle House, adjacent to our hotel. At this time our group had to say goodbye to Charlie the Chicken I. Hal Vatcher and Daylene Fiquette presented Charlie's history with the club. Hal promised all of us that he would find a final resting place with a view for Charlie. And then we met Charlie the Chicken II who was later baptized in the hotel swimming pool by Hal. Each day a new person is chosen to take care of Charlie. Charlie accompanies that person throughout the entire day. At the end of the day a new person is chosen to take care of Charlie.



**A memorial for Charlie "the Chicken".**



**Both Daylene and Hal said that in spite of his name tag, Charlie did not live the life of a coward.**

**Day 5, September 13.** Leaving Moab, we had a beautiful drive along the Colorado River. Our destination was Grand Lake, gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the highest national parks in the U.S. Our route took us over the Gore Pass at 9,527 ft. elevation. In Grand Lake we stayed at The Gateway Inn with a view of Grand Lake, Colorado's largest natural body of water.



**Gore Pass**



After a picturesque ride during the day, we arrived at our hotel with a view of Lake Estes.

**Day 6, September 14.** The BW Plus, Silver Saddle Inn was the nicest place on the trip. In the morning, we had a good breakfast before a drive through Rocky Mountain National Park.



**BW Plus, Silver Saddle Inn at Estes Park**



**Chevelle Club members, reunited at breakfast.**

We drove on "Trail Ridge Road, the 48 mile stretch of US Highway 34 that traverses Rocky Mountain National Park from Estes Park, CO in the east to Grand Lake, CO in the west." The highest part the trail is 11,796 ft. elevation.



**DAY 7, September, 15.** We left Estes, CO in the morning and headed to Canon, CO via the 59 mile Peak-to-Peak Byway, known as Colorado's oldest scenic by-way. Our stop for lunch was at a legal casino area called Black Hawk. Some found a favorite machine and played, without losing, for over an hour.



**DAY 8, September 16.** This day was another free choice day. Some people visited "Old Max" (the Colorado Correctional Facility), looked for dinosaur digs, or drove on Skyline Drive. Many people chose to travel on the Royal Gorge Route Railway. It was an extremely hot day and after a wait to board, we entered air-conditioned cars where drinks and food was served. As the ride progressed up the canyon, the train was in the shade provided by the steep canyon walls. This was a perfect time to go into the open-air observation cars.



**River Gorge Route Railway.**



**Bill & Kathie.**

At night we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> and last group dinner at Di Rito's Italian Cuisine where a number of lucky raffle winners won \$50.





**Day 9, September 17.** We left Canon City, CO and headed for Durango, CO.



Before reaching Durango, we stopped at The Great Sand Dunes National Park.



**The Great Sand Dunes**



**Naomi, Charlie & Jim**



**Maritza & Ruly**



**Pat & Sharon**



**John & Linda**

“The Park was originally established as Great Sand Dunes National Monument on March 17, 1932, by President Herbert Hoover. Congress authorized a boundary change and redesignation as a national park in 2004. Today, visitors can surf an ocean of sandy slopes, observe the glow of planets, and hear sand sing.”



**Hal, in his trusty C1, led the group from the dunes to Durango.**

**Day 10, September 18.** On this day we left Durango and headed back to Flagstaff. Hal Vatcher provided us with three different routes from which to choose. The following day most of the members went back to their homes after a very memorable “Rockies Roundup Corvette Tour.”

Thanks to Hal and Charlie McManis for all of their time, help and information to guide us on this trip. We were so sorry Charlie and Gerri were not able to attend this time. We all missed you!

*Sharon & Pat*



**Linda, Sharon, John and Naomi in Durango.**

# HISTORICAL REPORT III

## THE ADVENTURES OF CHARLIE THE CHICKEN II

A PART OF ROCKIES ROUNDUP, SEPTEMBER 9-19, 2021

Many of you are familiar with our Corvette Caravan “Mascot” known as “Charlie the Chicken.” From his introduction at the 2007 cruise by John La Bella, followed by his official “christening” by Hal Vatcher, Charlie’s company was enjoyed by participants in Corvette caravans to various parts of the country.

Unfortunately, chickens have a short life span. Over the years, our Charlie grew weak and frail, with deteriorated legs and literally losing his head. In Moab UT, on the recent Rockies Roundup cruise, the trip participants held a “Celebration of Life” for Charlie, which was followed later by finding a final resting place for Charlie in CO.



Following the Celebration of the Life of Charlie the Chicken, the group was introduced to Charlie’s successor, “Charlie the Chicken II.”

This exotic fowl’s credentials show he was hatched in Taiwan in 2019. Because he had obtained sponsorship by a US citizen, he was granted entry into the US via Amazon, a popular transportation corridor. He was not selected at random; in fact, at first glance he was a noticeable standout in a field of lesser specimens, and it happens he wears the same size traveling wardrobe that “Charlie” wore.



**“Our im”peck”able choice to succeed “Charlie the Chicken” as our Corvette caravan mascot.**

A noble spirit as rare as hen's teeth seems to radiate from the breast of this candidate. "Our hope is his eagerness to serve will capture your willingness to allow him to share your spirit of adventure beginning today." On all our cruises, Charlie is "shared" among the participants. For each 24-hour period, Charlie is assigned a new "chicken-sitter." That person or couple take Charlie with them wherever they go. If one is "appointed" as the sitter, they cannot refuse!

After Charlie the Chicken II's baptism, he was assigned to John and Jane La Bella for his first day as the Rockies Roundup's Caravan Mascot. Here is John and Jane's story.

### **John & Jane La Bella: Charlie the Chicken II (CC II) Takes the Reins.**

After his debut at the Canyon Steak & Waffle House in Moab, UT, CC II stepped up to assume his formal role as mascot of the Vette Set Corvette club. Hal, Master of Ceremonies at the restaurant, placed CC II in my hands for the next 24 hours. I have to say it was like old times as the bond between myself and CC II was renewed! I knew the time would pass quickly so I had to determine who would be next to be graced with CCII's presence. I decided Janet Cherry could be entrusted with CC II.

When I approached Janet with the task, she was elated. Her response was as though she had just won the lottery! And rightfully so I might add! It's not everyone who receives this honor! She guarded CC II and brought him with her continually for 24 hours. Janet's response to CC II is a model for all others to emulate. Thanks Janet!

### **Janet Cherry's Day with Charlie the Chicken II**



**Baptism by Hal.**



**Janet and John with CCII.**



**Janet and Charlie II at happy hour.**



**Charlie taking a bath and later in bed dreaming.**



That night, while staying at The Gateway Inn in Grand Lake, CO (a beautiful place), CC II enjoyed happy hour, a warm bath, and his own bed for a good night's sleep. During the night, he didn't utter a peep.

The next morning we started our adventure with Rocky Mountain National Park Ranger Dan. He gave us great advice on how to keep Charlie safe while hiking the trails.



A hearty breakfast.



He wanted to see out the window.



We received hiking instructions from Ranger Dan.



At the end of the day Charlie the Chicken II had earned his National Park pin...



At the end of the day, our time had come to an end. Charlie the Chicken II was passed on to club members Jerry Clement & Marci O'Brien.

### **Jerry Clement/Marci O'Brien: Our day with Charlie the Chicken II**

Charlie was passed to us in the morning. Janet said she was going to pass him to whomever she saw first that morning. Lucky us! Marci soon took custody and introduced Charlie to casino gambling at Blackhawk. They played Wheel of Fortune for about an hour, and it appeared Charlie was bringing luck. But not settling for chicken feed, he kept trying for the big jackpot and eventually he and Marci lost their original stake. When it came to gambling with Marci's money, Charlie was no chicken.



As the group was relaxing at Happy Hour, Bob Blattenberg indicated they were going to a Chinese restaurant for dinner, and I thought Charlie would enjoy the experience and passed him on.

### **Bob & Cecilia Blattenberg: Our day with Charlie the Chicken II**

Charlie's day with us begin with us literally saving his life! His prior caretaker (Jerry) apparently had "enough" of Charlie and left him under his car tire to almost certainly be squished!



**We thought Charlie would enjoy a nice dinner only to realize he almost became "Sweet and Sour Charlie the Chicken."**

While taking Charlie to the top of Rocky Mountain National Park he got a touch of altitude sickness. In Cañon City we visited the prison museum only to have them tell us pets were not allowed. Luckily, Charlie is a "service chicken" so he got to see all the interesting exhibits. Finally, some beautiful scenery and great friends on the train in the Royal Gorge.



**Boost for altitude sickness.**



**No pets allowed in prison.**



**CC II visited Cell 28.**



**Relaxing on the Royal Gorge railroad.**

That night Jim & Naomi Cunningham were appointed Charlie's caretaker for the next day!

## **Jim & Naomi Cunningham: Our day with Charlie the Chicken II**

Thanks to Bob, we became the lucky recipient of Charlie the Chicken II at our group dinner in Cañon City. He faithfully stuck by my side all the way from Canon City to Durango.

Charlie is a good traveler, easy going, and never complained about a thing!

Our favorite adventure with CC II was lunch at the South Fork Malt Shoppe where we caught the attention of a father & son from Texas. Dad was on the phone with his wife talking & laughing about Charlie, and before I knew it, I was on his phone telling her the history of Charlie the Chicken. It was a hoot! (Or was it a cluck?).

BTW, the burgers & shakes there were great too.

As our time with Charlie was a lot of driving, there were not many other adventures for Charlie that day. In Flagstaff, Charlie the Chicken II was passed on to Raul and Maritza as the next "Guardians." They accepted the role with grace. There truly was a special connection. Raul & Charlie clucked the same language every time they saw us! It was a perfect match!

## **Raul & Maritza Rodriguez: Our day with Charlie the Chicken II**

In Flagstaff, on the last leg of the trip, we took over guardianship of Charlie the Chicken II from Naomi and Jim. Charlie showed a bit of separation anxiety, specially from Jim. Charlie requested that Maritza drive all the way to the South Bay so he could continue some "male bonding!" Charlie felt a bit better once on the road. Little did he know that the trip would take 10 hours.

In Kingman Charlie enjoyed Route 66 and was thrilled to visit the restaurant with the big M. See photo. Little did he know about the chicken nuggets.

In Barstow he was introduced to Tex-Mex at Chili's Bar & Grill. He liked their corn.

On the trip Charlie learned a few Spanish words. Raul explained what "Pollo Loco" meant. He never wants to visit such a degrading place.

With the bond formed between Raul and Maritza, especially with Raul, and although Charlie said he dearly misses his friend in Breckenridge, Charlie the Chicken II has chosen to stay with Raul and Maritza until the next adventure.



**Naomi with Charlie II.**



**Maritza.**

...End

*Hal*