



eNews

Official Publication of the Southwest Section
National Corvette Caravan Presented by
Zip Products / Ghost Shield Film

Top Story

PreRun7

One of the last Southwest Caravan prerun trips to be made by the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team took place in late April. Section Captain Bill Herold and Commander Tony Megowan caught a jet to Kansas City, MO. They rented a car and scouted the Caravan route from Kansas City, down to Cape Girardeau and then to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green where they attended the final National Captain's Meeting.

Herold and Megowan's first stop was the Hollywood Casino for a meeting with the facility's Director of Marketing, Julie Rounds. Bill, Tony, and Ms. Rounds toured the Casino's expansive parking lot which will be the departure staging venue on Day Six of the Caravan. Captain Herold and Commander Megowan also received Rounds assurance that the Casino wants to promote its gaming with an advertising buy in our [Route Book](#). Once again the Organizing Team has benefitted from Captain Herold's sales skill.



Stay too long here and you won't be able to "Walk like an Egyptian", because you'll have too good a buzz. Please drink responsibly. Image: Avalon Chateau Hotel

The PreRun7 team of Herold and Megowan and tried out the "Avalon Chateau," an interesting boutique hotel with "themed rooms" at which many Caravaners have booked rooms. One of the more important parts of the PreRun7 mission was to scope out hotel watering holes. Captain Herold told

the eNews, "The property has a really cool bar called "d'Nile" on the bottom floor. For caravaners staying at this hotel, if they visit "d'Nile" they're in for a treat!"

The next PreRun7 stop was Cape Girardeau, MO, the quant city on the banks of the mighty Mississippi that the Caravan will visit on the last night of the trip. "Visit Cape," which is the Cape G. Convention and Visitor's Bureau, will partner with the Corvette Club of Southeast Missouri to put on "Corvettes in Cape." This spectacular event combines a Main Street Corvette Show, live music and numerous food vendors and, on the evening of 27 August, will entertain four Caravan Sections: Arizona/New Mexico, Kansas/Missouri, Oklahoma/Texas Panhandle and Southwest. We stopped in Cape Girardeau in 2014 and 2019 and are looking for another great time at "Corvettes in Cape" in 2024.

Key PreRun7 objectives in Cape G were to 1) visit a new hotel property that adjoins the existing Century Casino constructed after we were there in 2019 and 2) find a new location for departure staging on the final day of the 2024 Southwest Corvette Caravan.



The stunning facade of the new Riverview on a beautiful day along the mighty Mississippi. Image: Riverview Hotel



Caravaners lucky enough to book a room at the Riverview will have a nice, riverfront view. Image Riverview Hotel.

The Casino, on the north end of the city right on the river, has been there since 2012, however, its hotel, The Riverview, is brand new having opened two weeks before the PreRun7 Team's visit. The 69-room property has been added to the list of hotels from which Caravaners can choose.

Captain Herold met with Reg Swan, President of the Corvette Club of Southeast Missouri, Executive Director of Visit Cape, Brenda Newburn, and Casino/Hotel General Manager, Lyle Randolph.

The PreRun7 Team were hosted for dinner by Mr. Randolph at the Riverview's fine dining facility, "Beacon 53." Bill ordered a steak and, at the Team Meeting on the night of 15 May, he told those in attendance, "it was the best ribeye I've ever had."

During the visit to Beacon 53, Commander Tony Megowan did a live shot with local TV channel 12 promoting the '24 Caravan and "Corvettes in Cape." Rumor has it Cmd. Megowan, preparing for a future in television, has hired an agent.

The next morning, Herold and Megowan met with Reg Swan and Pat Ruopp (Corvettes of SE Missouri VP) early the next morning to check out the new staging area which is Cape Girardeau Parks and Recreation's Shawnee Park Sports Com-

plex. It is a large, circular complex of baseball and soccer fields with a perimeter road that easily accommodates the 180 or so Corvettes of the Southwest Section. The Day Seven staging area is conveniently located on Shawnee Parkway which leads to the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge across the Mississippi over which we'll drive as we head to Bowling Green.

PreRun 7 left Cape G and explored the route the Southwest Section will take southwards to Paducah. It became a "mini-Caravan" as Reg Swan and Pat Ruopp tagged along as they were headed to B.G. to do a tour through GM Bowling Green Assembly. The run down to Bowling Green took the mini-caravan through Cairo, Illinois, Paducah, Kentucky and "Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area" also in KY. PreRun7 ended at the National Corvette Museum.

Other News

PreRun8

The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team has one more scouting trip, PreRun8, that will take place at the end of May or in early June. Section XO, Hib Halverson, will do that trip. As discussed in previous eNews issues, the Caravan's tentative First Day route is storied Angeles Crest Highway



Dawson Saddle, is the highest point on the Angeles Crest Highway. on PreRun4 in mid-2022, XO Halverson ran the length of ACH problem-free. Two years later, after heavy winter rains during those years damaged ACH, at eNews15 post time, Dawson Saddle is impossible to reach. Image Commander Hib Halverson

(ACH) through the Angeles National Forest from the junction of I-210 and SR2 in La Cañada-Flintridge to its terminus at SR138 a little south of Phelan. The high-elevation parts of ACH east of Islip Saddle are always closed during Winter reopening at the end of May, however, parts of the highway sustained severe damage by winter storms. At the deadline for this issue of eNews, parts of ACH are still under construction. There are two, sections of one-way traffic controlled by auto-

mated signals. Obviously, sections of one-way traffic are not compatible with a Caravan as large as Southwest, so there is the possibility of a last-minute, major change in the route for the first day.

XO Halverson plans to prerun the entire length of ACH to assess road conditions and make the final decision as to driving ACH on Day One of the Caravan.

National Captain's Meeting

Tons of Important Information below

Twice in years prior to a National Corvette Caravan, the NCM stages a "National Captain's Meeting." This year and in 2023 the "NCM at the NCM" was presided over by "Admiral" Frank Sancineto, the Caravan's National Chairman. Twenty Section Captains were in attendance with six attending by video conference. A great deal of key Caravan information came out of that meeting. Caravaners should read this section of eNews15 carefully.

The National Corvette Museum Caravan planning staff, led by Bryce Burklow, announced that Caravaners will get to "cross the finish line" at the NCM. This ceremonial experience was a fixture of Caravans of the past but has not happened in recent events. The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team welcomes the NCM reinstating that special experience. XO Halverson told the eNews, "Above all, the Southwest Organizing Team wants smiling, happy Caravaners. That NCM has brought back the "Finish Line", gives all of our Caravaners that emotional charge they deserve upon reaching the National Corvette Museum after a 2200-mile, seven-day, epic journey. Kudos to Bryce Burklow for making that happen."

Finish Line crossings will be carefully planned. Caravan sections will be given specific arrival times at Bowling Green. Sections will get off I-65 at exit 28 and drive part of the Assembly Plant perimeter road then stage there. When given the "go ahead," each section will leave B.G. Plant, cross KY SR446 and drive past the Museum's front entrance. Law enforcement will direct traffic at Corvette Drive and 446 to assist Caravan sections crossing the highway.

Registration for the National Corvette Caravan closes on 8 July. If you register before then, your credentials will be mailed in advance of your departure in August.

If you register after this date, you must pick up your creds at the NCM upon your arrival.

Parking can be complicated at the Museum during the Labor Day Celebration. Lots A, B and C have ADA/Handicapped parking spots available on a first-come/first-served basis. Non-handicap spaces are reserved, available to NCM members only and cost—wait for it...\$750.00. If you want to buy one of the big-buck reserved parking spots, log into the members-only section of the NCM website then go to <https://corvettestore.com/products/2024-ncm-caravan-parking-spot-reservation> and buy your space.

The free parking areas are the grassy areas just beyond the NCM entrance on Corvette Drive and the parking lot the NCM Motorsports Park. Shuttles will run between the Motorsports Park and NCM. Those parking areas have ADA spots that will be adjacent to the shuttle stops which are identifiable by pop-up tents.

If you register for the Caravan before July 8th, you'll get your credentials from Organizing Team members during the Southwest Caravan Kick-Off Reception the evening before we leave Pasadena. The creds package includes a waiver that must be completed prior to arrival at the NCM. Southwest Caravaners meeting the Caravan in Las Vegas or Glenwood Springs CO must complete waivers and pick-up creds at those overnight stops. For those joining at a Caravan Reform just off I-

70, east of Denver CO, the logistics of getting your wavers and creds is TBA at this time. Future issues of eNews will have instructions on how that will be accomplished.

At the Captain's Meeting, it was announced that the Corvette Racing Banquet will be on Friday night 30 August, however, the NCM website currently lists a dinner dance at the same time. Further details on Friday night events will be posted on the Corvette Museum website's event page when they are available. The confusion about Friday night will be cleared up in a future issue of eNews.


The 2024 National Corvette Museum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will not be a banquet. It will be an early-evening, cocktail party on Saturday 31 August. Following the HoF party will be the Farewell Concert. There will be a fee for the Hall of Fame cocktail party. The cost of the Farewell Concert is included in registration fee paid for the Caravan and the Labor Day Celebration. The location and time of the HoF Ceremony and the Concert will be released in early June. Reportedly, the two events will be within walking distance of each other.

Route Book Staff Introduces Tribute Boxes

Looking for ways to enhance the Southwest Section's famed Route Book, the Book's design staff has introduced "Tribute Boxes." They are business card-sized spaces in the Route Book with which Caravaners can pay tribute to their Car, their Corvette Club, their Mom or Dad, their children, their pet, or anything they wish to acknowledge. Tributes are 3 1/2-in by 2-in. and cost \$150.00. Accepted formats are .jpg and .pdf. Tribute space is available from the Route Book staff.

Here are some examples of what Route Book Tributes could look like.



Secondary Lead Car



Sandy's and Hib's ZR1/ZTK
The Last Great Front Engine Corvette

Bill and Vi
Herold

Proud Members
of VCCC



When I wrote
"Red," instead
of "Maserati"
I should have
said "Corvette"

Best Wishes to all
Caravaners
Love,
Taylor Swift



Hi. I'm Zoey the
Tuxie

I wanted to go on the
Caravan but my hu-
mans, Sandy and
Hib, left me at the
Kittyland Resort for
two freakin' weeks!

Note: these are not actual Route Book tribute boxes

Help us Out-Be a Caravan Patron

The National Corvette Museum, which sanctions the National Corvette Caravan, does not fund Caravan Sections. It is up to each Section Captain and his or her team to raise the money necessary to put on their events. The Southwest Section relies on sponsorship, Route Book advertising, and registration fees to fund most of its activities. Generous Caravaners also have a tradition of chipping in to help the Organizing Team fund the event.

Want to show your support for the Southwest Section of the Caravan in a special way? Become a "Southwest Caravan Patron". Each person donating \$100 or more to the Southwest Caravan Organizing becomes a "Patron" and will be listed on a page in the front of the Southwest Caravan [Route Book](#) Donations from Southwest Caravan Patrons. At this point obtaining major sponsorships, selling advertising, and significant income from Registrations is still ongoing, so we need all the help we can get.

Those interested in the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team's Patron Program should contact Section XO Halverson at the email address or phone number listed in the "Information" section below.

The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team thanks all of our Patrons:

Janet Cherry	Roy and Carolyn Burgener	Tony and Paula Megowan
Doug and Loretta Campbell	Craig and Laura Kerezman	Bill and Viola Herold
Harvey and Jane Price	Mark Vanderwyk/Justine Cleak	Hib and Sandy Halverson
Matt and Lark Stevens	John and Gail Lercel	Bruce and Gina Coleman
Mary Hall	John and Susan Beard	Joanne Mattingly
Lawrence and Rosemary Pittman	Lynn and Lorena Thompson	Peter and Melinda Walenceus
Greg and Madonna Bowlay	Roberta Degener	Dave and Dawn Gordon
Stephen and Maria Hudson	Mickey Lookman	Don and Jeanne Allen
Jim and Kathy Carr	Paul and Carol Hannah	John and Pam Waschbusch
Joe and Julia Smith	Dennis Trammel	Steve and Susan Royce
Craig and Micky Gill	Larry and Pam Fortmuller	Susan and David Pratt
Mike and Joann Holpuch	Lisa Klockenteger	Cary and Ryan Rehm
Greg and Gisele Don	Thomas Kelly and Marie Demarbiex	Alexander and Gloria Best
Rod Walker	Larry and Janet King	David and Myrle Pentz
Roy Howell	Fred and Judy Kolstad	Greg and Paul Kolstad
Steve Bush	Dennis and Sheila Durham	

Caravan Registration Information.

In eNews7 we asked Southwest Corvette Caravaners to register early. Section CFO, Paula Megowan, tells eNews that 167 cars are registered for the Southwest Section.

The fee for the Southwest Caravan costs \$100. Registration is accomplished the "old-fashioned" way. SW Caravaners will complete a Registration Form and mail that and a check for \$100 to Commander Paula Megowan, the Section's CFO.

At the end of this issue of eNews is a fillable .pdf into which you can enter data using your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Then will print the last page of this eNews then mail the finished form with your check to Paula Megowan who will email you back a confirmation.

The Return of the Blankee Benefit



The 2024 Southwest Caravan stadium blanket: Image Commander Tony Megowan

Starting with the 2014 Caravan, the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team has commissioned commemorative "stadium blankets" displaying the Southwest Corvette Caravan logo. Southwest Caravaners who became Patrons, also get the "Blankee Benefit". Our Stadium Blankets will be 50 by 60 inches. They are fur-lined with the logo and text applied by dye sublimation. They have no border with graphics and text being "full bleed".

The cozy fur-lined Southwest Caravan Blankee is perfect for Winter sports spectating, picnics, outdoor concerts, or just keeping warm in your lounge chair while watching a Sunday NASCAR race.

Caravan Merch

We have lots of goodies that registered Caravaners can buy. Show your support of the Southwest Caravan with our hats, flags, and two sizes of static cling stickers.

All are available from Section Captain Bill Herold. Contact Capt. Herold at the email address or phone number listed in the Contact Us section below.



Contact Us

We have a [page on the National Caravan website](#). We, also, have this Southwest Caravan eNews, a tradition going back to 2003. If you are not an eNews subscriber and want to start getting it, send email to SWeNews@netmotive.net and simply type "subscribe" in the subject field, then type your name in the body of the email. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/919416625640194>. Finally, email or call any member of Caravan Leadership with questions.

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Thanks for reading

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