



August 2023  
CTV Year 50 - No. 08  
[www.cowtownvettes.org](http://www.cowtownvettes.org)

# *the* **LOWDOWN** *from* **COWTOWN**



*Summer in Texas !*

*Official  
Award Winning  
Publication of*

*Racing, Showing and Cruising Corvettes around Fort Worth since 1974*





## Officers 2023

**RALEY SMITH: President**  
rsmith1203@att.net



**MARY PITTMAN: Vice President**  
marypittman@hotmail.com



**VICKI CURREY: Secretary**  
vfrostcurrey@live.com



**DOUG MCMAHAN: Treasurer**  
treasurer@cowtownvettes.org



**NORMAN WALKER: NCCC Governor**  
norman\_walker@charter.net



**LARRY CURREY: Webmaster**  
webmaster@cowtownvettes.org



**PAUL JACKSON: Newsletter Oik**  
newsletter@cowtownvettes.org

## Board Members

**GLENDAMCMAHAN**  
*Board Member (Term 23-24)*  
glenda-gm@att.net



**LARRY SCHAAPVELD**  
*Board Member (Term 22-23)*  
treesandquail@skywi.com



**WILLIAM NOLAN**  
*Board Member (Term 22-23)*  
wmnolan@msn.com



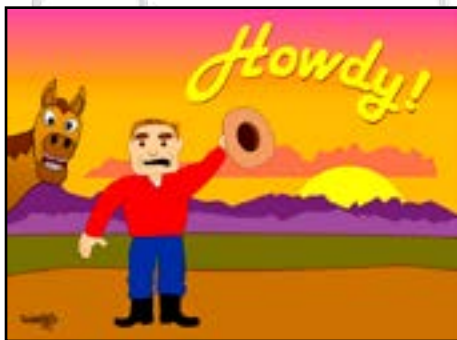
**SYLVIA HOALDRIDGE**  
*Board Member (Term 23)*  
pinkvett@dot11net.net



**MIKE MESSERLI**  
*Jr. Board Member (Term 23)*  
??@??

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Cover photo - [1953 Chevrolet Corvette Drawing by Nick Toth](#)

## Membership Meeting Location and CTV Sponsor



1st Wednesday of each month

781 W. Debbie Ln.  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
(817) 453-0188



## who's doin' what an' where's it bein' done ?

Space constraints mean it is not always possible to show everything on this calendar. Please check the [website](#) in addition!!!

## August 2023 NATIONAL HOT DOG MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	Membership Meeting 7:30pm	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	Board Meeting 7:00pm	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sylvia's Pool Party

## September 2023 BETTER BREAKFAST MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	Membership Meeting 7:30pm	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	Board Meeting 7:00pm	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

CTV Corvette Roundup  
TCC Stb Campus  
Fort Worth, TX

CTV Corvette Roundup  
TCC Stb Campus  
Fort Worth, TX

Bold italic type denotes CTV events





## Committees 2023

### AUDIT

Jack Winter

[jpwinter80@gmail.com](mailto:jpwinter80@gmail.com)



### CAR SHOW

Kim West

[kdcwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kdcwest@sbcglobal.net)



### CHARITIES

Cathy Baker

[cathybaker3@gmail.com](mailto:cathybaker3@gmail.com)



### CTV CRUISER

Robert Geyer

[geyerdrill@aol.com](mailto:geyerdrill@aol.com)

James Little : Co-Chair



### CTV HISTORIAN

Mary Pittman

[marypittman@hotmail.com](mailto:marypittman@hotmail.com)



### EQUIPMENT

Robert Geyer

[geyerdrill@aol.com](mailto:geyerdrill@aol.com)



### LOGO MERCHANDISE

Donna Forsythe

[dforsythe817@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe817@gmail.com)



### MEMBERSHIP/WELCOME

Ann Walker

[membership@cowtownvettes.org](mailto:membership@cowtownvettes.org)



## THE PRESIDENT'S PIT STOP



Raley Smith

President

[rsmith1203@att.net](mailto:rsmith1203@att.net)



Greetings Cowtowners,

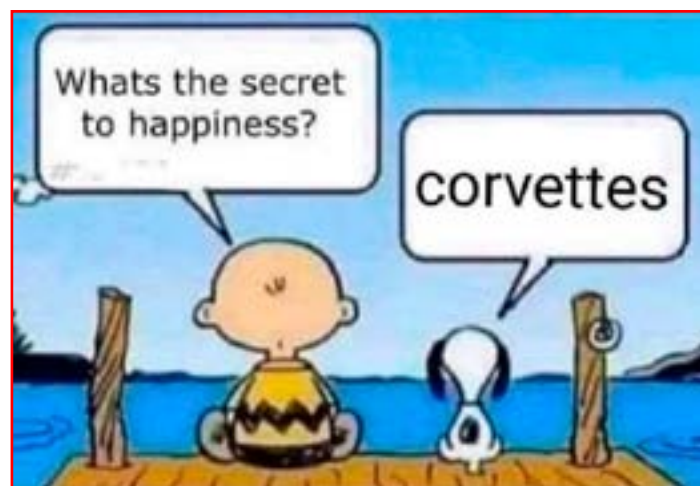
DANG, IT'S HOT! And as a result, not much is going on. I've seen a few report on Facebook of members getting away but you have to go quite a way to get out of the heat. So, mow the yard early in the day or, better yet hire it done.

Aside from socials and, soon to start again, NCCC events, we are coming up to a time of the year that is crucial to the ongoing success of Cowtown – officer nominations. In September we will take nominations for NCCC Governor. Nominations by ballot for all other Elected Officers occur in October with additional nominations taken from the floor in November. That said, it's not too soon to start thinking about who you believe should be considered for taking the mantle of leadership into 2024. We currently have officers who have served multiple successive terms in their current position and need a rest. So, look around and identify those who you believe would be a good fit for any of the Elected Officer positions (note: Elected Officers include Board members). Don't be shy; step up and nominate yourself if there is a position you believe you could ably perform. And there is nothing prohibiting a little competition for positions – feel free to nominate more than one person.

Qualifications for each elected officer position are addressed in Article V in the By-Laws. Duties associated with each are in Article VI.

That's it for this month.

Keep your cool and **Save the Wave ... ..!!**



## SOCIAL NEWS



Mary Pittman

VP & Social Coordinator

[marypittman@hotmail.com](mailto:marypittman@hotmail.com)



Talk about hot....just hoping the power grid holds up, and my air conditioner as well!! Thanks to all of you who came out for our July Breakfast Cruise to The Cafe in Graford, TX. I am truly not sure how Robert Geyer, Cruiser chair, came up with our route. I have definitely never been on some of those roads! We had a "good ole" homestyle breakfast and I don't think anyone went away hungry. The added bonus of trip down Hwy 4 for the trip home topped off the day.

### AUGUST

Our social event for August is the pool party at the home of **Sylvia Hoaldrige on Saturday, August 19, from 3:30 to 8pm.** There will be a sign up sheet at the August membership meeting and I will send out a CTV-All reminder before the party. To help keep the heat down a bit, we have decided no cooking, so we will need everyone to bring an appetizer or finger food or dessert to share. Sylvia is letting us set up food in her kitchen and we can graze at our leisure. The club will provide plates, forks, napkins and water, iced tea and lemonade. Please feel free to bring the alcoholic beverage of your choice if you desire...

### NO GLASS CONTAINERS BY THE POOL

Please bring your lawn chairs! We will have corn hole, ladder ball, etc., or if you choose not to swim, you can enjoy getting better acquainted with some of our newer members.

### SAVE THE DATE

Be sure you have **December 9th 2023** reserved on you calendar for our annual Christmas Party/Awards Banquet.



## Committees 2023

### NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

Randy Baker

[rworldfree@gmail.com](mailto:rworldfree@gmail.com)



### NCCC EVENTS

Larry Schaapveld

[treesandquail@skywi.com](mailto:treesandquail@skywi.com)



### PARLIAMENTARIAN

Dalan Walker

[dalanwalker@yahoo.com](mailto:dalanwalker@yahoo.com)



### SOCIALS

Mary Pittman

[marypittman@hotmail.com](mailto:marypittman@hotmail.com)



### SOCIAL & DIGITAL MEDIA

Doug McMahan

[socialmedia@cowtownvettes.org](mailto:socialmedia@cowtownvettes.org)



### TIMING

Vicki Currey

[vfrostcurrey@live.com](mailto:vfrostcurrey@live.com)



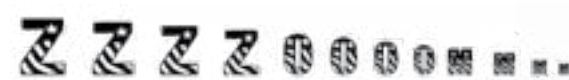


## MEMBERSHIP



Anne Walker  
Membership & Welcome  
[membership@cowtownvettes.org](mailto:membership@cowtownvettes.org)

### New Members



### Last Month's Visitors

Georgia Baker  
Laurie Baker



08/04 Randy & Cathy Baker  
08/08 Richard & Carol Downing  
08/18 Jack & Billie Rogers  
08/22 Doug & Jamie Bailey  
08/23 Rod & Gayle Cherry  
08/28 Tom & Lynn Fleeger  
08/30 Fred & Margaret Proctor  
08/31 Johnny & Anna Shotwell

08/04 Billie Rogers  
08/04 Carla Schneider  
08/06 Larry Currey  
08/13 Danny Townsend  
08/14 Michael Biggers  
08/17 Gwynne Horton-Hanna  
08/18 James West  
08/21 Greg Warren  
08/24 Randy Baker  
08/29 Mike Lindner  
08/30 Corey Armes  
08/31 Tamra Lahmer  
08/31 Doug McMahan



## DIGITAL & SOCIAL MEDIA



Doug McMahan  
Digital & Social Media  
Sponsorship  
Treasurer  
[socialmedia@cowtownvettes.org](mailto:socialmedia@cowtownvettes.org)



Well, so much for the great weather – we jumped from nice weather with a little rain, to over a hundred in a day. ☀️ We will have a slideshow at the August meeting which will include any socials and events that took place in July. It will also include some *Corvette Trivia* along with various other Corvette happenings around the country. It will be on the BIG SCREEN at Fat Daddy's for your viewing pleasure. In addition, Larry will post a lower-resolution version on the CTV Website.

If you have been working on or updating your Corvette with new items ...or if you have taken a trip in your Corvette and have some photos to share with membership, ***please send those to me and I'll include them in the monthly slideshow*** Cowtown's **Microsoft 0365** account provides **OneDrive**, which makes it much easier for you to provide photos from events for the web and/or monthly slideshow. If you plan to share photos, please take them in high-resolution; if not, they can't be used on the big screen or they will be grainy/blurry. Please contact me and I'll provide you more information and the OneDrive link to share your photos – basically **use the highest resolution option you have on your camera or smartphone.**

When you receive a CTV-ALL eMail blast, we would request that you **please only reply to the originator of that email.** To do this, select **Reply** on the email, then **remove the CTV-All** entry and replace it with the **originator's** email address. If you are sending CTV-ALL emails, please include your email address in the body of the email.

If you change your email address – please send an email to [CTV-Membership@groups.io](mailto:CTV-Membership@groups.io).

If you are not receiving CTV-ALL emails, please get with me so we can either add you or figure out why you aren't receiving them. More information on lists and acceptable use of them [can be found on our website.](#)



– if you are on Facebook and not a “friend” of Cowtown Vettes, members cannot include you in tags at events; these tags show your non-club member friends all the fun we are having. Who knows, maybe some of you are in the witness protection program and don't want to be tagged. If you are posting, be sure to tag Cowtown Vettes so it appears on our Facebook news feed.

***Get on out there and enjoy that Corvette!!***

### CTV Treasurer

As a friendly reminder, our Monthly Treasurer Reports are located on the Member's Only page on our website. If you have any questions about the reports, please feel free to reach out to me. The Treasurer Reports now match the timing of the Bank Statements (month ending) – so basically, they are a full month behind however; it includes all transactions now.

Additionally, all the Budgets and P&Ls for events and socials are there too.





# COWTOWN CRUISER



Robert Geyer  
Cruiser Chairperson  
[geyerdrill@aol.com](mailto:geyerdrill@aol.com)  
James Little: Co-Chair



Hi guys

Well it's August and the heat just keeps coming on., so this month, I won't be doing a cruise. However I plan on cruising somewhere in September so watch for that.

Hope everyone that cruised with me to Graford had an enjoyable trip and you liked my backroads drive.

For those that are participating in the Cruiser Points program, keep collecting your points for the end of year competition. If anyone has not yet started collecting points, it's not too late to start. Remember I am always available if you need help. And on a different note, don't forget to take that perfect picture of your Vette in that perfect location so you can submit it for Club voting during November's meeting.

That's all for now, and I'll see you guys in August.

# CHARITIES



Cathy Baker  
Charity Chairperson  
[cathybaker3@gmail.com](mailto:cathybaker3@gmail.com)



WOUNDED WARRIOR  
PROJECT®



National Kidney Foundation™







Larry Currey  
Webmaster  
[webmaster@cowtownvettes.org](mailto:webmaster@cowtownvettes.org)

## Corvette Racing Continues...Go yellow #3

### Corvette, Taylor and Garcia Return to Top Step of Podium at Chevrolet Grand Prix



#### BOWMANVILLE, Ontario – Corvette Racing is officially back.

Antonio Garcia and Jordan Taylor chased down the leaders Sunday and won the GT Daytona Pro (GTD PRO) class of the Chevrolet Grand Prix at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

“We deserved this win for a long time,” Garcia said. “We came so close many times. We were really struggling to pace at most of the races. ... Finally, we got what we deserved.”

### Tides Up...Lets Go Web Surfing...



**2023 Corvette Z06  
Driven by Ron Fellows  
Sets Production Car  
Lap Record...  
155 MPH**



## 2027 Corvette SUV: New Details Emerge...



The first surprise is that the Corvette SUV will not be based on GM's highly-touted Ultium electric platform. Instead, it will get its own unique EV platform. And it should have its own if GM wants to elevate the Corvette brand. After all, it needs to be able to compete with the likes of Ferrari's Purosang and Lambo's Urus.

#### More Corvette News:

[Chevrolet Just Killed the Corvette Racing Program \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/autos/news/corvette-racing-program-killed)

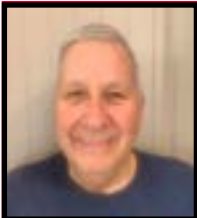
[Corvette Racing to Return With Pratt Miller Engineering-Led GTD Pro Program \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/autos/news/corvette-racing-to-return-with-pratt-miller-engineering-led-gtd-pro-program)



[Get Hyped: Exciting Updates To The 2024 Chevrolet Corvette Unveiled \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/autos/news/2024-chevrolet-corvette-unveiled)

[GM Reveals More About Customer Corvette Racing \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/autos/news/gm-reveals-more-about-customer-corvette-racing)





Randy Baker  
NCM Ambassador  
[rworldbfree@gmail.com](mailto:rworldbfree@gmail.com)



The faMuseum web site: <https://www.corvettemuseum.org/>



Doug McMahan  
Sponsorship  
Digital Media  
Treasurer  
[CTV-SC@groups.io](mailto:CTV-SC@groups.io)



Cowtown could really benefit from having a few good club sponsors; at any level; see below. Do you or someone you know own a business – **why not become a sponsor Cowtown Vettes Sponsor?** There are multiple levels depending on the depth of sponsorship desired. Do you have a candidate or thought on a club sponsor? With club sponsors we can fund the financial needs of our club, but we also have opportunities for funding an event or socials; or event to print the Low-Down, etc. **Not all sponsor levels have to be automotive related, so talk to us and share what you might be interested in sponsoring.**  
**Note: We have a freshly painted Club Trailer – Certain Club Sponsors Levels will have their logo added to our club trailer, adding visibility beyond the flyer and our website.**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (unlimited quantities unless otherwise stated)

- Platinum Club Sponsor (maximum one) (annual) \$ 3000+
- Gold Club Sponsor (maximum two) (annual) \$ 1000
- Silver Club Sponsor (annual) \$ 750
- In-Kind Club Sponsor - Discounts (annual) \$ 0
- Website Only Sponsor (annual) \$ 120
- Newsletter Only Full Page AD (annual) \$ 350
- Newsletter Only 1/2 Page AD (annual) \$ 200
- Newsletter Only 1/3 Page AD (annual) \$ 175
- Newsletter Only 1/4 Page AD (annual) \$ 150
- Newsletter Only 1/8 Page AD (annual) \$ 100
- NCCC Event Sponsor (per event) contact us
- Show Primary Sponsor (maximum one) \$ 650+
- Show Gold Sponsor (maximum one) \$ 500
- Show Silver Sponsor (maximum two) \$ 250
- Show Bronze Sponsor (maximum five) \$ 100
- Show Display Space (10'x10') disc for 2 spaces \$ 100/150
- Car Show Trailer Space (<12', <24', <36') \$ 100/150/250

We always have copies of Cowtown’s Sponsor Program at the Membership Meetings – see me. They are also available on our website, on the Sponsor page. If you need some in between meetings, contact either me or the Sponsorship Committee [CTV-SC@groups.io](mailto:CTV-SC@groups.io)

We continue tweaking the Member Guide that will help everyone to understand and promote Cowtown to potential sponsors. This guide will only be posted on the **CTV Member’s Only** website page – not to be distributed to non-CTV Individuals.

If you have questions or need clarifications, please reach out.

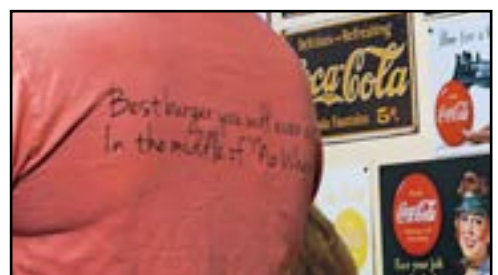
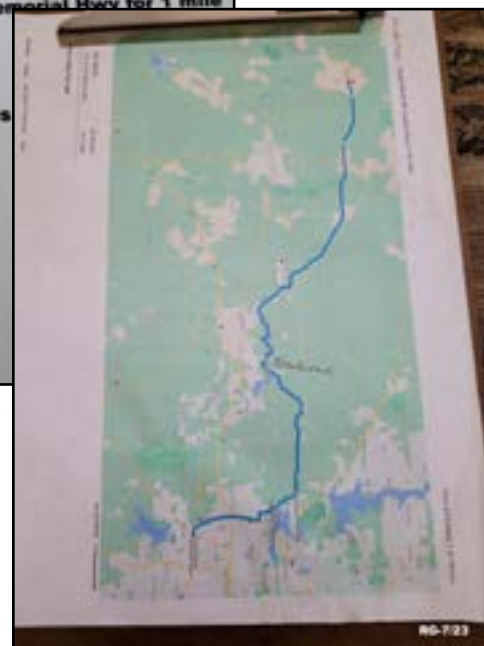


## CTV BREAKFAST CRUISE

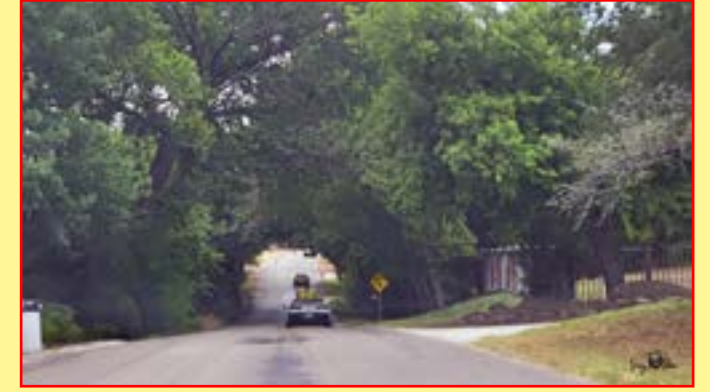


**Cruise to Graford Cafe**  
 205 W. Lee Ave., Graford, Texas  
 Leave Cracker Barrel and enter 820  
 Exit 5B to Silver Creek Rd then Left on Silver Creek no  
 Left on Confederate Park Rd at stop sign  
 Left on 730 at the blinking red light  
 Right on Trailwood Dr for 2 miles  
 Left on Upper Denton Rd for 1 1/2 miles  
 Right on North Bend Rd for 2 miles  
 Left on 515 for 1/2 mile  
 Right at stop light on Ric Williamson Memorial Hwy for 1 mile  
 Right on 920N for 4miles  
 Left at stop light on 1885 W for 26 miles  
 1885 becomes 254  
 Arrive at Cafe

**Saturday July 15th**  
**"The Cafe"**  
**Graford, TX**

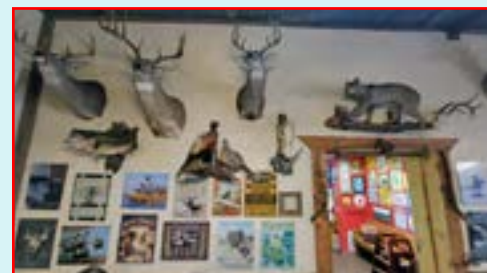


## CTV BREAKFAST CRUISE





## CTV BREAKFAST CRUISE



## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Tuesday July 25th  
Cooks Childrens  
Fort Worth, TX

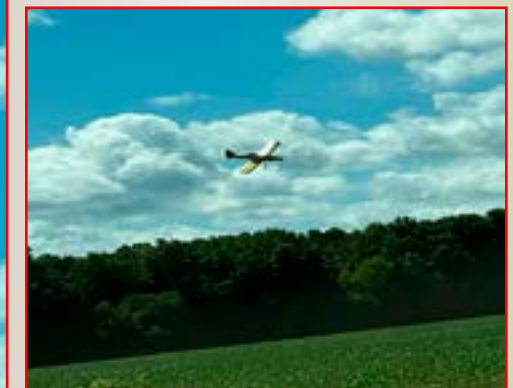




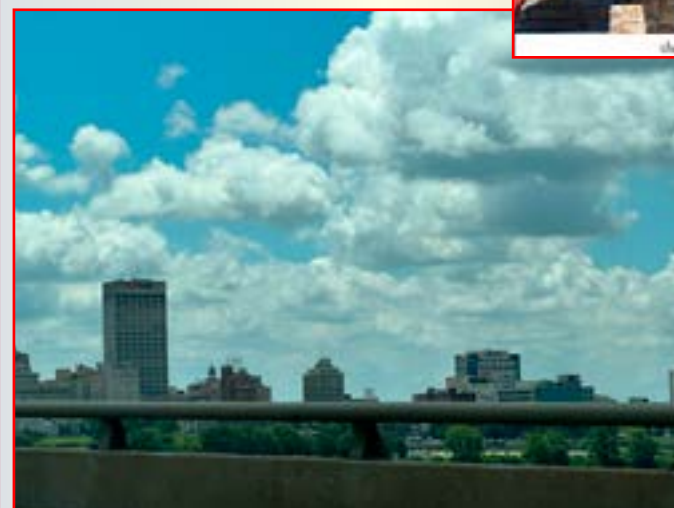


DFW to Bowling Green  
via Nashville,  
a few breweries, and the  
"Tail of The Dragon"  
June 18-28 2023

**Day 1**



**Day 2**







Day 3



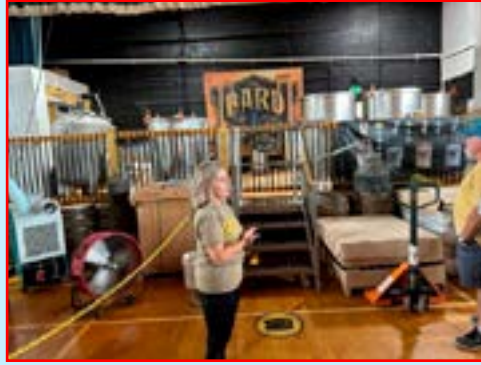


# Day 4





## CTV KENTUCKY CRUISE



## Day 5



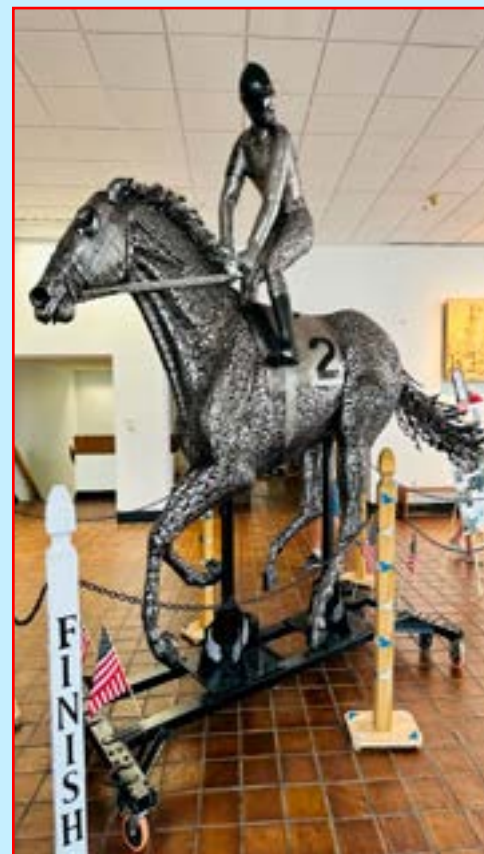
## CTV KENTUCKY CRUISE

## Day 6





## Day 7



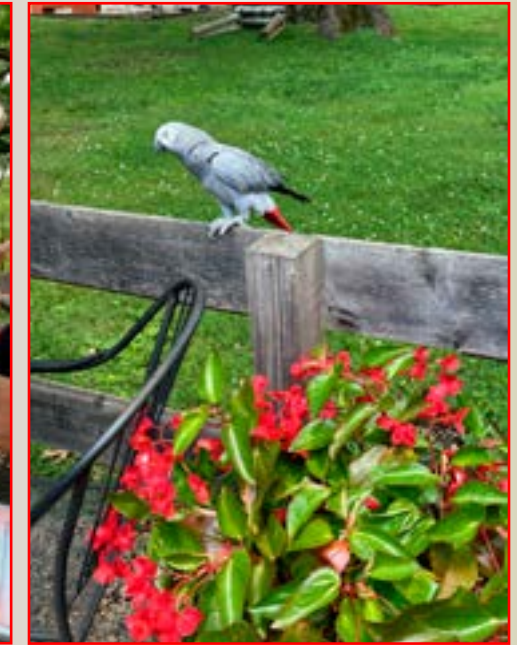
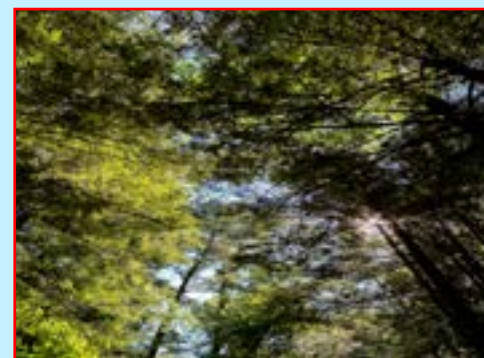
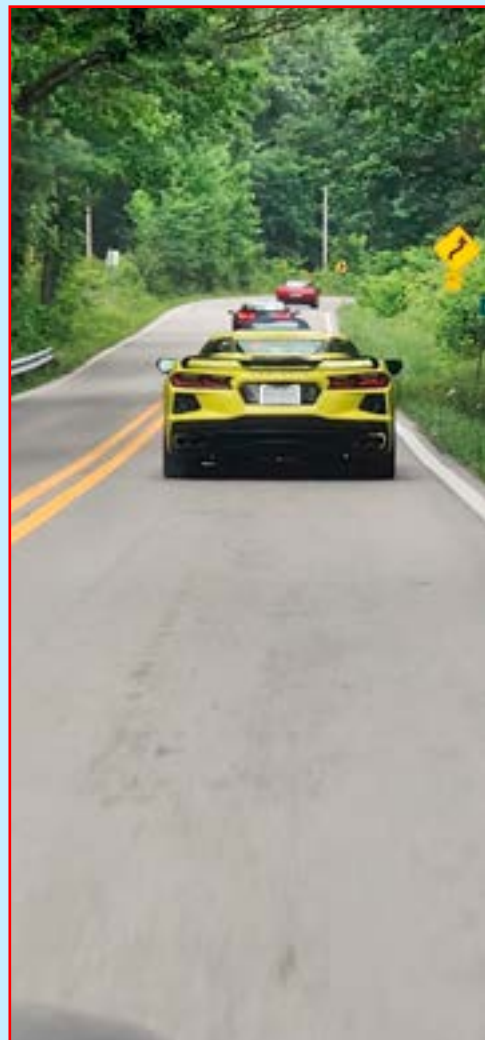
## Day 8







## Day 9 Part 1 Forest State Park



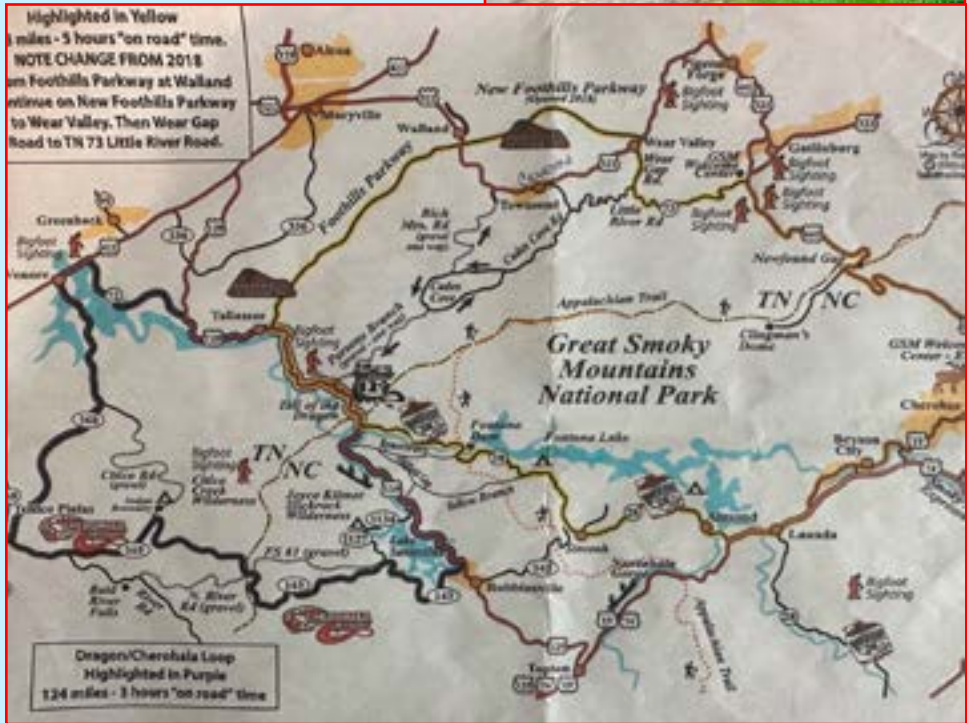
## Day 9 Part 2 Lunch and Scenic Overlook







**Day 9 - Part 3  
Tail of the  
Dragon**



**Kentucky Trip Stats  
June 18-28, 2023**

Miles	2,630
Nights	11
Hotels	7
States	TX, AR, TN, KY, NC

**Cruisers:**

Randy & Cathy Baker	2022 White Stingray
Bill & Jane Buehler	2021 Red Mist Coupe
David & Becky Clark	2019 Admiral Blue Z06
Larry & Vicki Currey	2022 Accelerate Yellow Z51 Convertible
Jack & Carla Gandy	2015 Artic White Coupe
Robert & Cydnie Geyer	2020 Red Coupe
Cliff & Jackie Holden	2014 Blue/White Z51 Convertible
Mack Maxwell	2004 Burgundy Coupe
Bernyce Molenda	2017 Watkins Glen Gray Coupe
Norman & Ann Walker	2016 Switchblade Silver Z51 Coune

**Day 10  
Return to  
base**





## NCCC EVENTS



Larry Schaapveld  
NCCC Events Coordinator  
[ncccevents@cowtownvettes.org](mailto:ncccevents@cowtownvettes.org)



### Upcoming events:

- September 16th and 17th Fall Autocross

See website for details



The one and only SCOTT WHEELER in action. RIP my friend

## NCCC GOVERNOR



Norman Walker  
NCCC Governor  
[norman\\_walker@charter.net](mailto:norman_walker@charter.net)



Currently, there are still 153 Cowtown Vette Members. If you know of a friend or neighbor with a Corvette, invite them to come be a part of Cowtown Vettes!

Convention is over, and we're waiting for the heat to subside so we can resume activities in the SW Region. Next up on the NCCC schedule, is our event at TCC on September 16-17. At this time, there is still no replacement for the CTCC event at the TSTC Airport in Waco. They are scrambling to find a replacement location, but so far they aren't having any luck. Oklahoma City Corvette Club will be holding their Fall Festival (14 autocross events) at Edmond, on September 30-October 1. The SANJAC event in Houston that was supposed to be October 7 & 8 has definitely been cancelled! The flyer is now up for the October 21 & 22 event at Killeen and Holland. Seven autocrosses on Saturday, and 3 drags on Sunday. This will be the only drags event in the SW Region this year!

The SW Region fundraiser is still in the works at Frederick, OK. This will be the first time for most of us to visit Frederick.

The SW Region standings of Cowtown and Cowtown members are pretty much unchanged, since there have been no events in the SW Region.

In the men's competition, Cowtown members still occupy SIX of the top eight spots! James Little -1, Dalan Walker - 3, Rick Whitcomb - 5, Larry Schaapveld - 6, Red Greenfeder - 7, and Norman Walker - 8. On the ladies' side, Lee Ann Parker - 2, Cathy Anthony - 9, and Kim Little -10.

As a club, Cowtown is Number 1 in SW Region, with what I believe is an insurmountable lead over Number 2 Oklahoma City Corvette Club.

Because other regions are now heavily competing, the national standings have changed. Men, James Little - 6, and Rick Whitcomb - 8. Ladies, Lee Ann Parker is 11.

There are no other Cowtown members in the top 15 nationally. As a club, Cowtown has dropped to Number 4.  
*Save the wave!*



Mobil 1





NCCC South West Region

Clubs

BRAZOS RIVER CORVETTE CLUB (BRCC)  
Granbury, TX • SW-540

CEN-TEX CORVETTE CLUB (CTCC)  
Waco, TX • SW-200

CORVETTE CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY (CCOC)  
Oklahoma City, OK • SW-468

CORVETTE CLUB OF TEXAS (CCT)  
Dallas, TX • SW-074

CORVETTE OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH TEXAS (COAST)  
San Antonio, TX • SW-143

COWTOWN VETTES (CTV)  
Fort Worth, TX • SW-055

EAST TEXAS CORVETTE CLUB (ETCC)  
Lufkin, TX • SW-577

LONGHORN CORVETTE CLUB (LCC)  
Austin, TX • SW-207

MID-COAST CORVETTE CLUB (MCCC)  
Lake Jackson, TX • SW-170

OKLAHOMA CITY CORVETTE CLUB (OCCC)  
Oklahoma City, OK • SW-131

SAN JACINTO CORVETTE CLUB (SJCC)  
Houston, TX • SW-063

TEXAS COMPETITION CORVETTE CLUB (TCCC)  
McGregor, TX • SW-569

TEXAS CORVETTE MOTORSPORTS CLUB (TCMC)  
Houston, TX • SW-568

TEJAS VETTES (TV)  
Plano, TX • SW-163

TEXAS OUTLAWS CORVETTE CLUB (TOCC)  
Graham, TX • SW-198

TIN HALL TOYS (THT)  
Santa Fe, TX • SW-392

TULSA VETTE SET (TVS)  
Tulsa, OK • SW-248



Competition Schedule 2023

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	CLUB(s)
AUGUST			
		No Events Due To Heat	
SEPTEMBER			
8-9	St Louis, Mo	National Meetings	Nat'L
16-17	Ft Worth, Tx	TBD 14 Low-Speed Autocross Events	(BRCC @ CCT)
16	Ft Worth, Tx	3rd SWR Governor's Meeting ? pm @ TBD 2024 1st Choice Weekend Bids, RE Nominations, Banquet Host, Etc.	SWR
23-24??	Waco, Tx	TSTC Airport ?? 4 Low-Speed Autocrosses 10 Low-Speed Autocrosses	CTCC MCCC
30-10/1	Edmond, Ok	Edmond Fire Academy Fall Festival 2022 14 Low-Speed Autocross Events	OCCC TOCC
OCTOBER			
October	Online	Governors Vote For SWR Re (Electronic Voting)	All
Oct-Nov	Online	Governors Vote For National Officers (Electronic Voting)	All
7-8	Houston, Tx	Houston Police Academy - CANCELLED 14 Low-Speed Autocross Events	EMCT-SJCC
21-22	Killeen & Holland, TX	Texas A&M Central & Little River Dragway 7 Low-Speed Autocross Events 3 Drag Events - Mt, Record @ Et (All 1/8 Mile)	COAST
28	TBD	4th SWR Governor's Meeting ? pm @ TBD (and Virtual)	SWR
28-29	TBD	SWR Fundraiser - 14 Sanctions	TV
NOVEMBER			
10-11	St Louis, Mo	National Meetings	Nat'L



Complete schedule and flyers for these events can be found at <http://www.ncccswregion.org/schedule.html>

The 80's (remember them?)

Part 4 of several that may (or may not) appear until someone notices and begs me to stop. Ed.

Plastic Wheel Covers

Plastic wheel covers aka hub caps were the norm during the '80s. With compact cars the norm, automakers needed a way to dress the wheels up. The problem with plastic hubcaps is that they would become damaged quite easily. The cost to replace them was high if you were going for an OEM option. Automakers eventually switched to alloy rims which is what we have today. Having an actual wheel has a lot of advantages over the old plastic wheel covers. The quality is a lot better and you can take a corner without worrying about the hub caps flying off. Automakers have come a long way when it comes to wheel design, even though the '80s were a time of innovation and creativity.

Gullwing Doors

'Back To The Future' gave us the first glimpse of a mainstream car with Gullwing doors. Although this type of vehicle design has always been hailed as futuristic, Gullwing doors are just not a suitable option for everyday driving. These doors are more problematic than anything and tend to get in the way of a tall driver. Still, automakers tried the whole Gullwing thing for some time in the '80s. More recently, Tesla has attempted to bring Gullwing doors back into the mainstream. We're not sure if this will be a short fad or something new again. Nevertheless, gullwing doors have been around since the '80s and they didn't catch on too well. It might just be too futuristic for what most drivers are looking for.

Talking Car Interiors

As computer synthesizer technology advanced in the '80s, so did car interiors. Nissan was the first to offer a talking car with the 1981 Datsun Maxima. The car would give you certain bulletins for service as well as letting you know if the door was ajar. Talking car interiors never managed to catch on with the consumer. Although the concept might seem neat, there was just no need for it. The interesting thing about talking about car interiors is that the technology has made somewhat of a return. Today's smart cars utilize Apple Siri and Google Assistant technology to take commands from the driver. While not the same thing, it was a similar concept that is making cars more interactive with the driver.

Clutchless Manual

In the '80s, pretty much every standard model car came with a manual transmission. An automatic was considered a luxury item around this time. But for a lot of consumers, the task of driving a manual transmission was a pain. This is why a few automakers got together and tried to develop a clutchless manual transmission. The problem was that these transmissions were expensive to repair and time-consuming. Clutchless manuals faded into obscurity pretty quickly. However, in recent years there have been a few enthusiast cars that are being designed to use a clutchless manual. Hyundai is at the forefront of this trying to bring that obscure technology back into the mainstream. Time will tell if the clutchless manual can see the light of day again.

Targa Tops

Another quirky feature that you might not have realized started in the '80s was the Targa top. Prominently featured on Porsche models of the period the Chevrolet Corvette also managed to get a Targa top as well. The great thing about Targa tops was that they didn't sacrifice the ride quality as with a convertible. Nevertheless, Targa tops never became immensely popular. Although you can still find Targa tops for modern-day sports cars, they aren't the norm. A Targa top is often very heavy and tough to remove. Most average consumers would rather just go for the convertible body style instead of dealing with removing the Targa top. Still, an interesting fad from the '80s nonetheless.





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Do you have a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew, or are a guardian to a child under the age of 16 years. If so, don't forget to enroll him/her in the **Future Corvette Owners Association (FCOA)**, NCCC's youth organization.

**Website:** <http://www.corvettesnccc.org/fcoa1.html>



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