



eNews

Official Publication of the Southwest Section
National Corvette Caravan Presented by
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Top Story

Caravan Route Changes Again

Several months ago, the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team learned that a major cycling event was coming to Cedar City UT on the same weekend the Southwest Section of the Caravan stops there on Friday, 23 August 2024. Section Captain, Bill Herold, and the Organizing Team's lodging specialist, Commander Lawrence Pittman, were concerned this event and the Caravan would conflict.

While the city had enough hotel rooms for both, the cycling event draws thousands of participants and spectators dwarfing our Caravan Section. That was likely to make food service on Friday night and Saturday morning difficult and perhaps impractical. In addition, Section XO, Hib Halverson, advised the Team that the cycling event's registration location and starting point will interfere with the Caravan departure from its staging area at the University of Southern Utah and would, also, preclude the plan for a police-escorted "parade" westbound on Main St. to Interstate 15.

At an Organizing Team meeting in late June, after a review of the Cedar City situation, members of the Team supported moving Overnight2 from Cedar City to Bryce Canyon City. Captain Bill Herold decided that was the new location for Overnight2.

Most of the city is taken up by Ruby's Inn a 108-year old resort which will be the location of the Southwest Section's second night on the road. In 1916, Reuben "Ruby" Syrett came to the wilds of



One of the three Best Western hotels that make up the Ruby's Inn complex. Image: Ruby's Inn

Southern Utah. He built a ranch near the present Ruby's Inn. Shortly after his arrival, a nearby rancher told him about Bryce Canyon. Ruby and his family visited the canyon rim and were so impressed by its spectacular scenery that they spread word of the canyon's beauty and began hosting visitors. By 1919, the State of Utah's permitted Syrett to build a lodge, the "Tourist Rest," near the the canyon. In 1923, Bryce Canyon became a National Monument and Ruby Syrett moved "Tourist



Ruby's Inn circa mid-1930: Image Ruby's Inn

Rest" to his ranch renaming it "Ruby's Inn". The U.S. Post Office established service there and still serves the area from that location. The reputation of Ruby's Inn grew after Bryce became a National Park in 1928. Eventually, Ruby's became an expansive resort with three hotels, an RV park and campground, and vacation rentals. At Ruby's Inn, there is access to all kinds of outdoor sports and, of course, Bryce Canyon National Park.

What started with tent houses and food service, today provides all the resort benefits needed to make a stay in the Bryce Canyon area a trip to remember. The same western hospitality and friendly service pioneered by Ruby Syrett is provided by his grand- and great-grandchildren who will cheerfully welcome the Southwest Corvette Caravan to Ruby's Inn about a year from now.

As this issue of eNews is posting, Section Captain, Bill Herold, and members of the Organizing Team are on PreRun6 to Ruby's Inn to survey the facilities. We'll have a full report on PreRun6 in the next eNews.

Other News

Registrations Top 100

Southwest Section CFO, Commander Paula Megowan, told the eNews just before deadline that 106 Caravaners have registered their cars for the Southwest Corvette Caravan. "I had dinner with John Warren (Captain for Pacific Northwest Section) this past Wednesday," Captain Bill Herold said, "and he told me that he has been overwhelmed by the numbers signing up for his Section."

Section XO, Commander Hib Halverson, on the Organizing Team since 2002, said to eNews editors, "I've been doing this for over 20 years and never in the run-up to the last four Caravans have so many people registered so soon. That we already have 106 cars may mean we might be a

record-breaking Caravan Section a year from now." Halverson went on to say that since the 2003 trip, Caravan numbers have floated at 180-200 cars, but that 225-250 cars is possible for the 2024.

For those who have not yet registered for the Southwest Corvette Caravan, registration information is at the end of this issue of the Southwest Section eNews

Local Leader Resigns

Gail Carson resigned her position with the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team effective September first. Previously a Caravan Lieutenant and co-local leader for the San Diego area, Carson has decided to join Holt Davis' Arizona/Net Mexico Section. Captain Bill Herold told the eNews, "On behalf of the Organizing Team, I thank Gail for her service and wish her safe travels with the AZ/NM Section next year." Section XO, Hib Halverson, who manages relations with Caravan local leaders said, "I'm sorry to see Gail go and echo Bill's comments."

Capt. Herold Visits Supercar Sunday

Supercar Sunday is held almost every weekend in the main parking lot at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. Back on 3SEP, Section Captain, Bill Herold, showed his '23 ZO6 Convertible and set up a Caravan information display.



At left, the Organizing Team's pop-up banner. At right, Capt. Herold's very blue ZO6. Image Bill Herold

Dustin Troyan is the event's organizer and has been putting on Supercar Sunday for a number of years. He is a "real car guy" and spends much of his time doing various car-related events as well as fundraising for needy causes. While Supercar Sunday drew 150 or so Corvettes back in early September, Troyan's flagship event is the annual "Toy Drive" held in early December. In 2023 Troyan will stage the 19th Toy Drive. This event always has a huge turnout of car enthusiasts donating toys.

The Return of the Blankee Benefit

Starting with the 2014 Caravan, the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team has commissioned commemorative "stadium blankets" displaying the Southwest Corvette Caravan logo and some text. For

the 2014 and 2019 Caravans, when a Southwest Caravaner made a donation of a certain amount, that person received a Southwest Caravan Stadium Blanket.

At an Organizing Team meeting on 28 June, Section Captain Bill Herold, who has been researching 2024 blankets for several months, showed a prototype of a '24 stadium blanket and directed the Team to reestablish the popular "Blankee Benefit" program for the 2024 Caravan.

For the 2024 Blanket, the Southwest Organizing Team has switched vendors to Integrated Impressions of Laguna Nigel. 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 Organizing Team is rolling the "Blankee Benefit" into the existing "Caravan Patron Program." A Caravaners "ticket" into the Blankee Benefit is a minimum \$100.00 donation. Any Southwest Caravaner who donates \$100 or more becomes a "Caravan Patron" and gets a Southwest Corvette Caravan Stadium Blanket. All existing Caravan Patrons will receive blankets once we receive them from the supplying vendor.



This is the 2024 Caravan Stadium Blanket. Image: Integrated Impressions

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 Caravan Section's organizing 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 put on 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](#). Additionally, all Caravan Patrons receive one of the Southwest Caravan blankets discussed above. At this point obtaining major sponsorships, selling advertising, and significant income from Registrations is still ongoing. The Organizing Team is relying on money lent to it by its members to fund its work, so until then...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 our Patrons:

Janet Cherry

Doug and Loretta Campbell

Harvey and Jane Price

Matt and Lark Stevens

Mary Hall

Lawrence and Rosemary Pittman

Roy and Carolyn Burgener

Craig and Laura Kerezman

Mark Vanderwyk/Justine Cleak

John and Gail Lercel

John and Susan Beard

Tony and Paula Megowan

Bill and Viola Herold

Hib and Sandy Halverson

Bruce and Gina Coleman

Joanne Mattingly

Caravan Information Sources

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.

Southwest Caravan Organizing Team Members

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Section Commander Loretta Campbell: lorettaecampbell@gmail.com 805 258 1004

Section Commander Lawrence Pittman: pitmanlaw@aol.com

Feeder Caravan Local Leaders

Section Lieutenant Janet Cherry, Orange County wuwublu@gmail.com 562-544-1053

Section Lieutenant Alex Best, San Diego area los-snorenios@cox.net

Caravan Registration Information.

In eNews7 we advised Southwest Corvette Caravaners to register early. So far, over a hundred Caravaners have done just that. Southwest Section CFO, Commander, Paula Megowan, told the eNews just before deadline, Section CFO Paula Megowan told the eNews that 106 cars are registered for the Southwest Section of the National Caravan.

Section XO Hib Halverson told the eNews, "For the four Caravans I've worked on previously, we never had any idea of the response until the Caravan's national registration opened two months before the Caravan began. That we already had 44 cars confirmed for the Caravan 14 months before we leave was amazing. Now, 11 months out, we have 106. Wow. At this point, the Organizing Team is a bit strapped for cash so, on behalf of Captain Herold and the rest of the Team, thanks to all who have registered early!"

As announced in eNews6, the SW Caravan costs \$100. Going to fee-based registration was a difficult decision for the Caravan Organizing Team because the previous SW Caravans did not charge a fee. Both the 2014 and 2019 Southwest Caravans lost money. Since the National Corvette Museum does not financially backstop any Caravan Section, the Captains take all the financial risk. The Section Captains for 2014 and 2019 both paid significant financial shortfalls after the two events concluded. Consequently, one of Captain Bill Herold's first policy decisions for the 2024 Caravan was

the Section was going to charge per car. At an Organizing Team Meeting in mid-January, the fee was set at \$100.00.

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 print the last page of this eNews and mail the finished form with your check to Paula Megowan who will email you back a confirmation.

Remember, the \$100 Southwest Registration Fee is in addition to the Corvette Museum's fee for the National Caravan. While NCM has yet to announce the fee, Section Captain Bill Herold has said that he anticipates it will be between \$35 and \$50.

Thanks for reading
Yeoman L. Sharke, Editor



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