



# eNews

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## Top Story

### July was PreRun Month

We're just a little over two years out from the 2024 National Corvette Caravan. At this point, the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team is working hard to test and validate new parts of the Caravan route. The Team does that with pre-run trips.

PreRun3 took place in early July. Section Captain Bill Herold, Commanders, Tony Megowan, Paula Megowan and Doug Campbell along with Herold's wife, Viola and Campbell's wife Loretta made the trip in Bill's and Tony's C7s and Doug's C8. They drove about 1700 miles stopping in Cedar City UT on the way north and Richfield, UT on the way back home.

The objective of PreRun3 was to investigate the route the Caravan will take on Day Three of the trip. In 2019, Day Three began in St. George UT and ended in Grand Junction CO. For the 2024, Captain Herold wants to overnight in Cedar City, about 50 miles farther north. Starting that day a little earlier than we did in 2019 along with being 50 miles closer to our Day Three destination in Grand Junction Colorado will give the 2024 Caravan time for a tentative side-trip to Arches National Park just north of Moab, Utah where Caravaners will drive a breathtakingly scenic, 36-mile loop through the Park.

Needless to say, to take a 200-car Caravan through a National Park entails more than just buying a bunch of tickets at the Main Gate. First, the Southwest Organizing Team had to apply for a Conditional Use Permit.



The PreRun 3 Crew: (L-R) Loretta Campbell, Cmdr. Doug Campbell, Vi Herold, Capt. Bill Herold, Section CFO Cmdr. Paula Megowan, Cmdr. Tony Megowan.



This year, in view of the Arches Park visitation growing 66% in the last decade, the Park Service has initiated a pilot program called the "Timed Entry System."

The day, from 6AM to 5PM was divided into one hour blocks. Up until this coming October, Park Visitors wanting to enter Arches Park between 6AM and 5PM must buy a timed entry ticket on the [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) website. The Park Service hopes that Timed Entry System reservations will better distribute vehicles and visitors throughout the day and should provide visitors with an improved experience during their time in the park. Data collected during the program will help determine Timed Entry System's viability as a traffic congestion solution. If the pilot program successful, timed entry may be implemented in the future as a component of a larger visitor use plan.

Whether or not the Timed Entry System becomes permanent and how it is implemented will influence the Southwest Organizing Team's final decision on a visit by the Southwest Section of the Caravan to Arches Park in August of 2024.



One of the most scenic drives in Southern California is the Angeles Crest Highway in the mountains north of our Pasadena departure point. The 2019 Caravan drove a short section of "AHC" or "The Crest," as the locals call it. Captain Bill Herold grew up in Glendale and was familiar with the entire length of The Crest and wanted to share that with Caravaners in 2024. Instead of traveling just the first eight miles then turning left towards Palmdale, as we did in '19, Herold wants to drive the entire 66 miles of AHC, from the junction of I-210 and State Route 2 in La Canada to where SR2 ends at SR138 in Phelan. The question mark about running the full length of the winding mountain highway was the length of time it would take to drive it at Caravan speed.



The Blue Bullet on AHC at the 7600-ft level looking north across the Antelope Valley at Edwards AFB

PreRun4 answered the question. On 19July, Section XO Commander Hib Halverson, set off from Goleta in his 2012 ZO6, "Blue Bullet" that was last seen on PreRun1 and was the Lead Car for the 2014 Caravan. He fought weekday morning traffic into the L.A. area then drove the entire length of AHC. "When I had an office in West Covina, I used to drive the first 15 or so miles of the Crest all the time," Halverson told the eNews staff. "It had been a number of years since I had run the full 66 miles which I did on PreRun4. I think the best part of the highway is the section in the highest of the San Gabriels which is closed during Winter. View points between 7000-ft Cloudburst Summit and 7900-ft Dawson Saddle will offer Caravaners spectacular views of Antelope Valley with Edwards Air Force Base in the distance, 35-miles away."



### The highest point on the Angeles Crest Highway

The only downside of the Crest, according to the report Halverson made to Captain Herold, is the U.S. Forest Service requirement that vehicles parked anywhere in the Forest must display a USFS "Adventure Pass." Anyone making a potty stop or a parking for a photo opportunity will need an Adventure Pass. The Organizing Team will have to develop a plan to purchase a number of the \$5.00 daily Adventure Passes.

## Other News

### Captain's First Year Letter

by Bill Herold

Wow...hard to believe that it has been just over a year since we had our first Organizing Team meeting at Brent's Deli in Westlake Village CA to discuss planning for the 2024 Southwest Section of the National Corvette Caravan.

I have quickly learned why we started planning three years in advance. It's because we NEED all that time to plan for every possible detail to insure a successful caravan. Early on, Commander Hib Halverson, who, since 2003, has been involved with the Southwest Corvette Caravans let it be known that the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team's ultimate goal is to provide the best possible experience for all of our Caravaners.

With that goal in mind, over the last 12 months we have had several in-person planning meetings, several virtual meetings via Zoom as well as 4 pre-run trips so far, as we chart our journey from Pasadena, California to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

While I was new to National Corvette Caravan planning and organizing in 2019, I have gathered together an outstanding Organizing Team. It includes Paula and Tony Megowan, who served on the Team for the 2009, 2014 and 2019 Caravans, Hib Halverson who worked on four previous Caravans, and Doug Campbell who has also participated in several National Caravans. Additionally our team has great support from our "better halves": Sandy Halverson, Loretta Campbell and Vi Herold.

By early fall of 2021 we had a tentative "route" for the 2024 Southwest Caravan. We all agreed that the 2019's general route was attractive as heading north then east in late August is better than a southern route across I-10 or I-40.



Selfie! Bill and Vi Herold at Arches National Park on PreRun3

Once again, we'll meet in Pasadena the night before we depart on 21 August 2024. We'll go north on I-15 to I-70 then head east. I'd rather not reveal more details at this time, but I promise you that if you were on the 2019 trip and enjoyed the route, you will certainly like what the Southwest Section will do in 2024.

We are changing things up a bit so the 2024 Southwest Caravan will NOT be a carbon copy of the 2019 trip. We have some new roads to drive, different stops to make and new events planned to make the 2024 Caravan different. We will stop in Las Vegas, Nevada rather than Henderson on the first night. Our second overnight is Cedar City, Utah rather than St. George.

Once we start east on I-70 we have some other stops in the planning stages and are hoping to firm those up soon. On Day Four, we cross the Rockies. We'll drive through picturesque Glenwood Canyon. We'll pass Vail and other ski resorts and then, at over 11,000-feet, drive through the Eisenhower-Johnson Tunnel. From there we'll continue on I-70, down the slopes of the Colorado front range, through Denver and an overnight part way across Kansas. On the fifth day we head to Kansas City, Missouri and then on to Cape Girardeau MO on Day Six.

The evening in Cape G was a huge hit in 2014 and 2019. The city rolls out the Red Carpet for several Caravan Sections in this picturesque "Main Street USA" town on the west bank of the Mississippi River. The event, "Corvettes in Cape," is put on by the Corvette Club of southeastern Missouri and the Cape Girardeau Visitor's Bureau.

Main St. is a block west of the River and in the afternoon and evening a two-block section of it is closed to traffic and becomes a Corvette show-and-shine. The entire town celebrates America's Sports car with live bands, food booths, beer gardens and other fun activities centered around the Corvette Caravan.

That will be our final night on the road. The National Corvette Caravan ends the next afternoon at National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green.

In total, we'll have six nights and seven days on the road. The National Corvette Museum 30th Anniversary Activities begin on Thursday, August 29th 2024 and continue through Saturday, August 31.

I want to restate what I said at the beginning of this letter and that is that the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team's ultimate goal is to provide the best possible experience for all of our Caravaners.

Bill Herold  
Section Captain

## **2024 Caravan Stickers now Available!**

Show your "Caravan Colors" with the official 30th Anniversary, 2024 National Corvette Caravan logo. It is now available as an adhesive-backed, vinyl sticker. It measures 4x3.5-in., a perfect size for a rear window. The '24 Caravan sticker has been a big hit with the Southwest Section Facebook Group and is now available to eNews readers.

The stickers sell for \$10.00 each and the profit from the sales goes to the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team to offset some of the cost of staging the Southwest Caravan.

Stickers can be ordered from Section Captain Bill Herold. Email him at [swcaravancaptain@gmail.com](mailto:swcaravancaptain@gmail.com) or call him at 805 402 7490 to place an order.



## **Become a Caravan Patron**

A great way for Caravaners to support the Southwest Section of the National Corvette Caravan during its planning and organizing stages is to become a "Southwest Caravan Patron". Each person donating \$100 or more to the Southwest Caravan Organizing team becomes a "Patron" and will be listed on Sponsor's page of the Caravan Route Book as a "Patron". Donations of \$500.00 or more will receive Route Book advertising space as well as listing as a Southwest Caravan Patron. Those interested in becoming a Caravan Patron should contact Section XO Halverson at the email address or phone number listed in the "Information" section below.

## **Caravan Information**

There are still a couple of years before the 2024 Caravan, so there are details of the Southwest Section's activities that the Organizing Team is not ready to reveal nor are they on our radar as yet, but one thing we do have, even this early in the process, are ways to communicate with our Caravaners who've been with us in the past and prospective new Caravaners.

First, 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](mailto:SWeNews@netmotive.net) and simply type "subscribe" in the body of the email.

Also, you can email or call members of the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team for information.

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Thanks for reading  
Yeoman L. Sharke, Editor



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