



eNews

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

Top Stories

Red Line Oil Sponsorship

The [Red Line Synthetic Oil Corporation](#) has joined the Southwest Section's list of sponsors. "I've had a 30-year relationship with Red Line through my work in automotive media," Section XO Hib Halverson told the eNews last week. "Red Line's ester-based lubricants, ATFs, power steering fluid, and its coolant additive are the best choice if you want the ultimate performance and durability from your Corvette. I use them in all of our vehicles, not just the Vettes.

Red Line's famed "Water Wetter" coolant additive is a must for the cooling systems on the Caravan because we spend three days driving through the deserts of southeastern California, southern Nevada, and southern Utah. WaterWetter can reduce peak coolant temperatures by 5-10°F. On days when the ambient temperature might be 110° and the temperature just above the road, where your engine gets cooling air, might be 120°F your Corvette will love you more after you add WaterWetter to your radiator.

"Back when I was the Section Captain for the '09 Caravan," the XO continued, "Red Line sponsored a t-shirt that had the Caravan logo on the front and Red Line graphics on the back. Working with Red Line, I arranged to have a 2024 Southwest Section T-shirt similar to what we did 13 years ago. It will be supplied free of charge to all registered Southwest Caravaners on the night before we leave Pasadena."

The Southwest Organizing Team would like to thank Mark Beatty, Red Line Director of Marketing, and Roy Howell, Red Line Chief Chemist, for their support of the Southwest Section of the National Corvette Caravan



Corvette Plant Tours

The other big story in this issue of eNews is that the National Corvette Museum announced last week that guided tours of the GM Bowling Green Assembly plant, where Corvettes are manufactured, will take place during the three-day, Labor Day event.

Automotive assembly plants are fascinating showcases of American manufacturing. To see thousands of individual parts come in one end of the plant and a finished vehicle go out the other is an amazing experience. Even better is watching a Corvette get built.

On May 15, 2024, the National Corvette Museum will begin accepting reservations, so if you want a tour of BGA, mark your calendars then, on 15 May, head on over to the [National Caravan site](#).



The Anniversary Celebration just got
EVEN BETTER

BREAKING
NEWS



BOWLING GREEN ASSEMBLY
PLANT TOURS

Returning for the week of
the Anniversary Celebration

Reservations are **Limited** | Available for purchase May 15, 2024

Other News

Southwest Caravan Partner

On Day Two of the Caravan, we'll stage for departure in the M Resort Spa Casino's huge Overflow Parking Lot on the east side of the property. The Southwest Organizing Team was able to get use of that lot at no charge when we paired up with Royal Festivals which puts on the Annual Las Vegas San Gennaro Feast in the M's Overflow area.

The Gennaro Feast is a traditional Italian festival dedicated to Saint Gennaro, patron saint of Naples, Italy and New York City's Little Italy. The feast is celebrated on 19 September according to the calendar of the Catholic Church.



In Naples, Italy this annual celebration and feast of faith is held over three days, commemorating Saint Gennaro. Italian-Americans celebrate with St. Gennaro festivals all over the country

The San Gennaro Feast of Las Vegas takes place twice a year. In 2024 it is May 8-12 and September 18-22. There is live entertainment from Elvis and Michael Jackson tribute bands to traditional Italian musicians and even a DJ spinning dance, house, and hip hop. There is booth after booth serving every Italian cuisine you can think of. Finally, there's more Italian merch than you can imagine. If you love Italian culture and food, you gotta go to the San Gennaro Feast in Las Vegas. Tix vary from \$7.50-\$15.00. They can be purchased on the [Las Vegas San Gannaro Feast website](#).

Caravan Merch

We have lots of goodies that registered Caravaners can buy. Show your support of the Southwest Carvan 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 information section below.

Southwest Caravan Registration Information

In eNews7 we asked Southwest Corvette Caravaners to register early. So far, many Caravaners have done just that. Southwest Section CFO, Commander Paula Megowan, told the eNews that, as of today, 163 cars are registered for the Southwest Section of the National Caravan.

The Southwest 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 backstop any of a Caravan Section's finances, Captains take all the financial risk. The Section Captains for 2014 and 2019 both paid significant financial shortfalls after the two events concluded.

We're doing an "oldskool" registration. Southwest Caravaners will fill in a Registration Form and mail that and a check for \$100 to Paula Megowan,.

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

Be a Caravan Patron

The National Corvette Museum does not fund Caravan Sections. Each organizing team raises the money necessary to pay expenses, purchase equipment, and put on events. The Southwest Section relies on sponsorship, Route Book advertising, and registration fees to fund some of its activities. Also, generous Caravaners have a tradition of chipping in.

Show your support for the Southwest Section of the Caravan by becoming a "Caravan Patron". Everyone donating \$100 or more to the Organizing Team becomes a "Patron" and will be listed on a page in the front of the Southwest Caravan [Route Book](#). At this point obtaining major sponsorships and selling Route Book advertising has yet to ramp up and the Organizing Team is still relying on money lent to it by its members, so we need all the help we can get.

Those interested in the Patron Program should contact Section XO Hib 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
Greg and Madonna Bowlay
Stephen and Maria Hudson
Jim and Kathy Carr
Joe and Julia Smith
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Cary and Ryan Rehm
Alexander and Gloria Best
David and Myrle Pentz

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. Southwest Caravaners who became Patrons, also get this "Blankee Benefit".



This is the 2024 Caravan Stadium Blanket. Image: Cmdr. Tony Megowan

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 on your lounge chair while watching a Sunday NASCAR race.

Two-Way Radios

by Section XO Hib Halverson

Southwest Caravaners have been asking about two-way radios for use while caravanning. They're

not a requirement, but most Caravaners have them. All radios used on the Caravan transmit and receive on frequencies shared by the Family RadioService (FRS) and the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). The 2024 Caravan will use the same frequency, 462.5750 Mhz. with no tone squelch or "privacy code," that it has used since 2003. it's FRS/GMRS simplex channel 16 which and is known to Carvaners as "CVAN1"



Kenwood NX 1800H 45-watt mobile transceiver

Most Caravanners use handi-talkies (HT) or "portables" all of which are battery-powered, transmit with either one half-, two- or five-watts, are equipped with short rubber antennas, and, transmitting from inside the car, have a range of up to three miles over flat ground. Some Caravaners will connect an outside antenna to an HT that's temporarily installed on the top or back of their cars. That can double the range. A few Caravanners, typically Caravan leadership, will use mobile radios that are about the size of the CBs from back in

the day. They are mounted on the dashboard or between the seats and have an outside antenna. They transmit with between 35- and 50-watts and have a range of up to 25 miles over flat ground.



BTECH "GMRS-V2"
Handi-Talkie

FRS and GMRS radios have a variety of price ranges. The least expensive are FRS handi-talkies. Often called "family radios" because they use family radio service channels or "bubble-pack" radios because vendors like Amazon or Walmart sell two of them in a plastic bubble pack for as little as 20 bucks. Most of them put out only half a watt. Outside the car over level ground, their range is up to a mile. From inside the car, maybe a few hundred yards. While a few Caravaners use the low-power FRS HTs, we don't recommend them because of limited range and average at best reliability.

Consumer-grade handi-talkies are a little more costly, but because they put out two watts if they are FRS or as much as five watts if they are GMRS, they have far better range. Consumer HT prices vary. The BTECH "GMRS-V2," made by the Chinese company Beofeng, has been popular with Corvette Clubs such as Ventura County and Redline. BTECHs were used by some on the '19 Caravan. They sell for about 75 bucks. Also available from the consumer GMRS market are 35-50-watt mobile radios. Commander Tony Megowan, one of the Organizing Team's experts on GMRS radio equipment, uses a BTECH HT and mobile. Megowan is the Team's go-to guy for programming BTECH equipment using the public domain, "Chirp" software. For more information on BTECH portables or mobiles, contact Tony at the email address in the Caravan Information Section below.

Professional grade GMRS HTs and Mobile transceivers are preferred by commercial users, serious outdoor enthusiasts, or anyone who desires rugged GMRS equipment built to MIL standards by brands such as Motorola, Kenwood, and iCom. High-end GMRS radio gear is more expensive. The Kenwood NX-1300DU, a MIL-STD GMRS handi-talkie that supports both analog and digital operation and has user-selectable power output of 1, 4, or 5 watts, can be had for \$382. The Kenwood NX-1800H is a MIL-STD GMRS mobile transceiver that's analog and digital capable and has user-selectable power outputs of 5, 25, and 45 watts along with a plethora of features typical of high-end mobile transceivers. It runs \$421. The best source for this high-end radio equipment is [JCS Wireless](#) in Cape Girardeau MO. It's owned by Reg Swan, a member of the Corvette Club of Southeastern Missouri and one of the key people behind the "Corvettes in Cape" event that takes place in Cape G. on the last night of the Caravan.

Because of my role in Caravan Leadership and that my Corvette sometimes ends up the Lead or Last Car, I have it equipped with a Kenwood mobile and a high-end Galaxy AB/SSB Citizen's Band radio—yep, over-the-road truckers still use them and those guys can be good sources of information. I also have a Wilson cellular amplifier in the car which has proven valuable in places where cell tower coverage is not so great. All of this has external antennas mounted on an "antenna bar" I put on the car for Caravan and other road trips when I need to be "radio-equipped."



Kenwood NX-1300DU
Handi-Talkie

Lastly, I have a new BTECH "GMRS-V1" portable for sale. It includes the handi-talkie, antenna, charger, AC adapter and owner manual. Price is \$40.00. Interested? email Section XO, Hib Halverson, at the address listed below in the Information section.

Additional questions on radios can be sent to either Tony Megowan or Hib Halverson.

Caravan Information

We have a [page on the National Caravan website](#). We, also, have this Southwest Caravan eNews, a tradition going back to 2003. If you don't have a subscription and want to start getting it, send an 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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