

Sedona & Grand Canyon Run – May 2008

It was a beautiful, clear, sunny Thursday morning, May 1st, when nine beautiful Corvettes gathered and headed east for a four night, five day run. Evelyn and I had joined Randy and Pam Forrester for a similar run a couple of years ago. Having enjoyed their run so much we decided to visit Sedona once again, and invite all interested COF members. We left Fresno at 9AM and headed for Laughlin to spend the night. We arrived in Barstow in time for lunch, with Peggy Sue's as our destination. This is a 50's style restaurant and gift shop full of memorabilia from that era, and the food was great. After lunch we had a great drive into Laughlin. Jon led us on an hour long scenic route bypassing some of highway 58. We passed by a bra tree with at least 50 bras hanging from the limbs. Strangely enough, none of the ladies on our trip wanted to make a contribution. Everyone enjoyed their stay in Laughlin that night.



Friday morning, after everyone had cleaned up their cars, it was off to Oatman. Lots of shopping and talking to the mules took place in Oatman. While we were shopping and eating ice cream, a caravan of ten beautiful Corvettes paraded into town. It was a group from the Corvette Club of Utah. We visited with them for a while. Later that day we passed them going the opposite direction about a hundred miles down the road. They really covered some distance that day. We left Oatman and drove down historic Route 66 for about an hour, stopping for a great photo opportunity. Then it was on to Lake Havasu, where we enjoyed a great lunch overlooking the Lake. After lunch it was on to Flagstaff for the night.

Saturday morning, after everyone had cleaned up their cars, it was off to beautiful Sedona. First stop was the Chapel of the Holy Cross. What a beautiful picturesque view of the entire valley. I thought everyone was going to fill up their cameras on our first stop. Afterwards we headed to one of the visitor centers for a pit stop. We then spent some time on a couple of back roads, where we stopped for another photo shoot. We then headed for our lunch destination, the Oak Creek Brewery in the Tlaquepaque Shopping Center. We had a great lunch, and several of us enjoyed *The 7 Dwarfs* beer sampling. After enjoying some of the fine arts in the shopping center, it was off for some more sight seeing. We then headed for the mile high historic mining town of Jerome. Nestled high on the side of a mountain, we enjoyed some more beautiful picturesque views, along with more ice cream. After the ladies were finished shopping we headed back to Sedona. We took another beautiful drive on The Red Rock Loop. The ranger in the visitor's center had earlier





confirmed this was a paved road, which meandered through some of the beautiful red rocks formations for about twenty miles. Wrong! About eight miles into the drive we ran out of pavement. We all agreed that it was time to do a 180. Of course we had to make another stop for a photo shoot. We then drove out of the beautiful Oak Canyon and back to Flagstaff for the night.

Sunday morning, after everyone had cleaned up their cars again, it was off to the Grand Canyon National Park. We took a back road to the Grand Canyon, where the scenery was once again outstanding. There was lots of wildlife along

the way, and majestic scenery for the hour and a half drive. Just before entering the National Park we stopped at McDonalds for a well deserved pit stop. Some tourists pulled in right behind us and walked up to the Vettes. In talking with them we learned they were from South Africa, and had stopped to see the Vettes, not to visit McDonalds. Billie was gracious enough to let them sit in her Vette for some photos. They said they may see one corvette every five years back in their home town. We enjoyed visiting with them. We spent a couple of hours enjoying the majesty of The Grand Canyon. Pictures can not accurately describe this wonder of the world. Again, the cameras were flying. We then gathered at a Wendy's outside the park for lunch. We parked in the back of Wendy's, and one of the firemen from the firehouse next door came over to check out the Vettes. It seems he had just purchased a 2008 Victory Red (of course) coupe. Sure enough, there it sat behind the firehouse. Everywhere we went, the nine beautiful Corvettes attracted attention. And the best was yet to come! Our next pit stop would be in Seligman, another Historic Route 66 town. Having never been there, the plan was to drive



through town, about one half mile long, then find a place to park. When I reached the end of town I thought the best place to park was alongside the curb, about 500 feet back, where there was plenty of room for all of us. So, we did a 180 right there at the end of the town. As the last few cars started to make the 180, we noticed an Arizona Highway Patrol officer was right behind us. Some of us finished the turn, while others pulled over and hoped he would pass on by. Sure enough, he smiled and kept on going. The rest of the cars made the turn and parked. We were quite a site pulling into this old Route 66 town. Before we were all out of our cars there was a rush of 20 to 30 tourists who came running over to our Corvettes to take

pictures. There was a buss load of foreign tourists visiting Seligman. They did not speak English, so we could only smile and let them take their pictures. It was quite a site. A little later I was taking some video pictures of the Corvettes, and as I panned in on one of the Corvettes, there was some lady sitting on the front fender with her feet off the ground getting her picture taken. I immediately chased her off. It's a good thing Jim didn't see her sitting on the fender of his Z06. We would still be trying to raise his bail money! After a fun time in Seligman, we hit the road for the drive into Laughlin. Lots of things to do in Laughlin, and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Monday morning Jim and Joan wanted to get an early start back home. They left at about 8:30. Another group left about 10:00, and Evelyn and I left with the final four at noon. Everyone had a safe drive home, and as promised, we were all home before dark.

It was a fun filled five days. We traveled through three states. The weather was fantastic. Not too warm and not too cold, although Flagstaff got down into the low 30's at night. The winds were calm and the air was dry. From start to finish (my house) the trip was 1,598 fantastic miles.

It seemed that where ever we went, the parade of nine beautiful Corvettes was quite a site. There were hundreds of photos taken, some of which are now on the COF website. Visiting Sedona and The Grand Canyon National Park was a first for over half of the group. Needless to say, they were in awe most of the trip. Evelyn and I would like to personally thank each and everyone who joined us on this run. You were all a pleasure to be with, and it was great to get to know everyone a little better.

Gene and Evelyn Fox

And yes... Corvettes are for fun!

