

Tahoe 37 Event Recap

On Thursday morning we met at the typical place at Herndon and 99. We had 6 beautiful Corvettes, all ready to depart, when we saw a group of about 10 more pull into the parking lot. It turned out to be our old friend Neal Gregory leading his group of **Sierra Corvettes** up from Visalia, stopping for a potty break. We exchanged handshakes and hugs, and found out they were planning to go a different way from us. We had people to meet along the way, so we parted ways.

The six cars were led by Tahoe Tour 37 Chairpersons Rick and Leslie Hawkins, followed by Billie Talley and TerriLynn Munson, Lloyd and Gwen Cox, Harry Bellow, new members Gene and Evelyn Fox in their beautiful Nassau Blue Vette, with Marcia and me running back door. Quite by coincidence, all the cars were red, white, or blue. Driving up Hwy. 99 in the early morning sun, the cars looked stunning. We had several truckers tell us so on the CB!

When we exited at Hwy. 88 and stopped at Burger King for a pit stop, we met up with two cars from **Corvettes of Lodi** and one from **Yosemite Corvettes** in Merced. We also met some folks with a beautiful blue C6 who mistakenly thought we were from **Vapor Trail Vettes**, but after a cell phone call he found out they had stopped at Starbuck's just up the road. The C6 went back to find the VTV guys, and the rest of us left together in a group of nine. We stopped for lunch at the Country Café in Lockeford, and then proceeded up to Lake Tahoe.

Tom and Suzanne Gutile had left early that morning with the trailer full of supplies, and they were waiting for us with the Rivas' when we arrived. In no time we had the registration tables set up in the Forest Suites lobby, and the folks lined up to register. At the same time, we had a welcoming party set up by one of the pools, and everyone congregated out there after registering. We had chips and dips and plenty of refreshments, and Leslie Hawkins mixed up plenty of margaritas!

Friday morning, 33 cars lined up outside the lobby of the Forest Suites Resort to depart for a **Corvette Tour of Donner Pass**. Carol and Tim McCollum led them out, and it looked like the start of the Indy 500 leaving the parking lot! They went for a Corvette driving tour up to Donner Pass, with a guided walking tour of the Donner Museum and one of the Donner Party campsites, and then stopped at Moody's for lunch in Truckee. The trip was not without a little excitement, as Carol led all 33 cars through not one, not two, but *three* U-turns! Big thanks to Carol and Tim for planning and leading this event (and for making sure I don't get the U-turn award this year).

Friday afternoon, TerriLynn Munson hosted the **Slot Tournament** at the Horizon Casino. The big winner was Jeannie Williams from Pomona Valley Corvette Association, with Sue McBride from Vapor Trail Vettes taking second, Karen LoBue from Corvettes of Lodi taking third, and Jim Nance from Just For Corvettes in Sacramento taking fourth. Everyone who attended had a great time, and when they got back from the casino, it was time for everyone to put on their spacesuits and get ready for the launch of one of the premiere events of the weekend: the **Hospitality Room Competition!**

There were aliens running around everywhere as we entered the first hospitality room, which was put on by **Vapor Trail Vettes** from Santa Maria. We were each handed a pamphlet regarding

alien abduction, and led into a chamber where alien "doctors" were performing an operation on a woman. She was obviously in a lot of pain as they performed a C-section on her and removed an alien baby from her womb! We were all shocked and horrified after seeing this, but the *Men In Black* were there with their "neuralizer" to erase our memories. Luckily, I closed my eyes as it flashed, so I could relay this story to you! Oh, and let me tell you, those aliens mix a mean margarita!

Our next stop was *Area 51*, hosted by **Corvettes of Sonoma County**. Unfortunately, aliens had completely overrun the facility, and were performing unusual tests and operations on the guests. Phil Rivas was abducted and placed on the operating table. As the aliens began to operate on him, he gave one last wish, "All I ask is that you make it bigger!" I didn't stay to watch whether or not they complied with his wishes, but I did sample a little of all the delicious food and drink they had to offer. Finally we escaped from the aliens and headed for the safety of the next hospitality room.

Sierra Corvette Club did an amazing job of transforming Neal Gregory's black Corvette into a *Men In Black* rocket powered vehicle, complete with spinning jet turbines, missiles mounted on the doors, and a huge gun mounted on the top. It was manned by those cute little worm guys who make the coffee! The car was parked on the grass outside the room, and the room was filled with wanted posters of all known "illegal aliens". They had music and refreshments, and the *MIB Dancers*!

The fourth and final room was **Corvettes of Fresno's Area 51-50**. Thanks to Susan Rivas, Tom and Suzanne Gutile, and everyone else for all their hard work decorating it. The entire room was wallpapered with foil, with little green men and flashy lights galore. We had spacey music, *Milky Way* bars, little green Rice-Crispy treats, and something TerriLynn and Billie concocted called "Alien Juice". Susan and Billie gave out flashing light rings and bracelets and alien antennae.

Saturday morning started early with the **Shine & Show** car show. All of the Saturday events were held at the Kahle Park and Community Center. The car show was on top of a multi-level parking structure overlooking beautiful Lake Tahoe. The view of over 100 Corvettes gleaming in the morning sun was a sight to behold! The judging was people's choice, but with all of those beautiful cars, it was definitely hard to pick clear-cut winners. In the end, when the votes were tallied, Richard and Barbara Collier from Cameron Park Corvette Club won first place in the 1953-1962 class with their beautiful white and silver '56. In the 1963-1982 class, Gaylord and Kathi Ostenberg from Corvettes of Lodi won with their blue 1966 roadster. In the 1984-1996 class, Gary and Amanda Looney from Sierra Corvettes took first, and also took first place in the 1988 Feature Year class. The votes were exactly tied for the 1997-2006 class, with Steve and Cathy Barajas from Corvettes of Lodi beating Mike and Diane Tanner from Sierra Corvettes only by a coin toss. The Modified/Custom class winner was Ron Beymer from Silicon Forest Corvette Club in Oregon, but we had to make a special "Super-Duper-Extra-Modified" class for Neal Gregory's rocket-powered *Men In Black* machine!!

After the car show, everyone lined up for the **Poker Run**, which was a beautiful 52-mile excursion past the lake and through the surrounding area, reaching historic Genoa, Nevada at it's farthest point. It ended back at Kahle Park, and then it was time for lunch. Many thanks to the

Lake Tahoe Corvette Club for once again planning and manning the Poker Run!! Congratulations to Tom and Suzanne Gutile for winning \$300 for high hand, and to Ron Delamar of Friends and Family Corvette Association in Vallejo for winning \$200 for low hand.

Lunch was catered, and included a sandwich of tri-tip, chicken, or vegetarian. Unfortunately the yellow jackets enjoyed our lunch as much as we did! Also set up in the lunch area were the cones for the Radio-Controlled Car races and the incline track for the Valve Cover races.

There were 2 classes in the **Radio-Controlled Car Races**: 6 Volt and Unlimited. There were only 2 official entries in the 6 Volt class, so both were winners, and both were from Corvettes of Sonoma County. Tony Varela took first place, and Don Neyman took second. There were a few more in the Unlimited class, but the same 2 drivers won first and second place with their Unlimited cars. One entry, former COF member Skip Hurliman, brought a gas-powered car, which should have easily won the competition based on its incredible speed, but Skip spun it out on his official lap, and he finished in *last* place.

There were 10 entries in the **Return of the Valve Cover Races**. COF's own Lloyd Cox was the reigning champion the last time this event was held a few years ago, but his car was eliminated in the second round by Skip Hurliman's ultra-fast racer. The match was so close that it had to be re-run because three judges and 2 cameras couldn't give a clear-cut winner. It was *that* close. Skip went on to win the competition, with Jim Middleton from Pomona Valley Corvette Association taking second. Thanks to the **Lake Tahoe Corvette Club** for bringing the track!

A few hours later we were back at the Kahle Park to attend the **Awards Banquet** in the gymnasium. It all started with a BYOB Cocktail Hour, followed by a scrumptious buffet dinner catered by Mountain Magic Catering. After Dessert, COF President Lee Delap took the stage to welcome everyone, and to introduce the hosts of the show, **Agent R** and **Agent K**. R (Rick Hawkins) and K (Yours Truly) are members of that elite extra-terrestrial monitoring force, the *Men In Black*. We thought these costumes would be really original and we did a great job of keeping them secret, little did we know that not one but *two* hospitality rooms would have the same theme!

So there were awards and raffles, and more raffles, and yet more raffles. There was a **\$500 Cash Raffle** won by Kandi Jeter from Family and Friends Corvettes. There was also a **50/50 Raffle** worth more than \$500. And lots of **Raffles** for Corvette gift certificates from Mid-America Motorworks totaling \$1,500. Finally there was a **Costume Contest** won by an unidentified green alien, and we can't forget the **Out-Of-This-World Ms. Vetta** "Beauty" Contest. This year the coveted sash and tiara went once again to Hector Paz of the *Vapor Trail Vettas*. I was fortunate(?) enough to get a hug and a big kiss on the cheek from Ms. Vetta after crowning her!!

Sunday morning found us all around the breakfast tables in the Forest Suites, and it was a pleasure hearing so many words of gratitude for putting on this year's event. Then it was the drive down the hill, back to Fresno. We left with Dennis Christainsen and Patty McGraw, but before too long we caught up with 8 Vettes from the Vapor Trail bunch. We left them in Jackson, and we went on to lunch at Lockeford, before the final leg home.

On behalf of Rick and Leslie Hawkins and myself, I'd like to thank all of the folks who worked so hard to help us pull this one off. Huge thanks to the entire Tahoe Tour 37 Committee: Marcia Burg, Randy Forrester, Harry Bellow, Tom & Suzanne Gutile, Lee Delap, Phil & Susan Rivas, TerriLynn Munson, Billie Talley, Carol McCollum and Lloyd Cox. Thanks also to those who helped us in Tahoe: Gwen Cox, Dennis Christiansen, Patty McGraw, Pam Forrester, Lake Tahoe Corvette Club, Mart & Sally Vance, Chef Peter and Mountain Magic Catering, Anthony and Cris at the Kahle Center, and Kevin. And special thanks to Corvettes of Sonoma County, Vapor Trail Vettes, Sierra Corvettes, and Corvettes of Fresno for all the hard work on the incredible Hospitality Rooms this year! And last but not least, thanks to all who donated cash and prizes this year: Bill and Emilie Hayden, Nonie Delap, Kent Mann, Hedrick's Chevrolet, Mid-America, Meguiar's, and anyone I forgot to mention!

Stay tuned for details on *Tahoe Tour 38!!*