

Debbie & Darrol Johnson's Mystery Dinner Run

Debbie & Darrol Johnson's Mystery Dinner Run, August 4, 2007 had 26 beautiful corvettes. We had some guests join us for our run and think they had a good time.

We met at Gables Parking lot (the old Regency Theater) at Willow and Shaw at 1p.m. and left at 1:30 p.m. Patty McGraw was our sweeper and did a great job. Mike Haney was our middle man and kept us together, another great job. We went south on Highway 99 to Manning, East to Reed Avenue, North to Trimmer Springs Road and North to our rest stop at Doyals, below Pine Flat Dam. There we parked for photos, a pit-stop, and refreshments.

As soon as we stopped, the hood of Jon a Liz Devoe's car went up. Oops, they forgot to check the oil. Without being told who had oil and shared it with them, I knew it was Jim and Joan Kozera. You can always count on them.

From there we went North on Maxon Road West, which turns into Watts Valley Road. The drive by Pine Flat is absolutely gorgeous. Darrol and I had never been on that road before our test drive. This is when I asked if Jim and Joan were familiar with the roads. Jim said that he had ridden his bike on it that very morning. I said, "No way" and Jim said, "Way." About that time someone asked Angie DiLiddo a question and it took her a little while to respond. When she came on the radio she apologized and said she dropped the radio when she was beating Nick and telling him to slow down. Then South on Ashlan which turns into Academy.

We made our way across Fresno and just before arriving at our 'Special Event' Susan Rivas guessed where we were going. Once there, we were greeted by the Forestiere family and the author of The Forestiere Underground Gardens book, Silvio Manno. Half of our group went on the tour with Mr. Manno and the other half with the Forestiere family members. Everyone seemed to enjoy it, even though it was very hot at times. Our club was given a private tour, one day before the public re-opening of the gardens. Just two weeks prior to our run we met Mr. Manno and told him about our club run and he agreed to be at the gardens. He had books for sale at the gardens, but we forgot to mention them and he was too humble to say anything. Some of you have expressed interest in obtaining a book, so we are looking into having some available at a future meeting.

Next, we headed to downtown Fresno to the Shepherds Inn for a wonderful seven course dinner. Our room was a little hot, but the food and friends made up for it. Suzanne Gutile guessed we were going to a Basque restaurant before we left on our run, from the pictures on our envelope. She never could come up with the correct restaurant name. But then again, it is fairly new.