



eNews

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Top Story

Time to Get Ready

We're a little over four months out. Seems like a long time, but Caravan Departure Day, 22 August, will get here quicker than you think. It's time for Caravaners to think about getting their cars ready for the 5000-mile round trip the Southwest Section make as part of the National Corvette Caravan.



Don't let this be you. Image: eNews Staff

On the first day of the trip, we'll travel through some of the hottest parts of the country in the middle of the summer. The two most critical items on a Corvette driven long-distance in hot weather typical of the deserts of California, Nevada and Utah is the cooling system and the air conditioning.

Your Corvette's cooling system consists of coolant passages inside the engine, radiator, coolant hoses, cooling fans, any aerodynamic devices in the front of the car which channel air into the radiator air intake

and the coolant, itself, which is antifreeze and water mixed between a 40/60 and a 50/50 proportion.

If you already know your engine is not cooling well, now is the time for whatever service work needed to address the situation. Even if you don't have a cooling problem, consider some preventative maintenance. If you have a cooling system failure on the Caravan and you're sitting on the shoulder of I-15 in 105° heat, remember: hindsight is always 20/20. The maintenance you thought was going to cost too much and/or take too long suddenly will seem like a bargain compared to the bill for the flat-bed and the delay of your trip.

The Southwest Caravan Organizing Team's automotive "techie", Commander Hib Halverson, told us that he recommends coolant changes every three years regardless of mileage. If you haven't done it in the last few years, the first thing to put on your pre-Caravan maintenance list is a cooling system service.

Have all your coolant hoses inspected and replaced if necessary. Take a look at your accessory drive belts and replace them if they are worn or cracked. Have the cooling fan function checked because that's what keeps the engine cool in traffic or when you are in-line at departure or arrival on each day of the Caravan. Lastly, few Corvetters think about front air dams but on cars which are "bottom breathers," the C4 and C5,

the the air dam is a key part of the cooling system in that, when the car is moving, it forces some of the air hitting the front of the car up and through the radiator. If your air dam is missing or damaged, it's likely your engine runs hot, especially at highway speeds. Lastly, drain, flush and refill the system.

The other system to check is your air conditioning. On our trip across the desert in the first day, outside air temperature could easily reach 110°. Back in July of 2017, during PreRun1, the Organizing Team "reconnaissance force" experienced temperature as high as 121°. Properly functioning air conditioning is certainly a comfort issue and, for some people, may be a health issue. Before you leave on the Caravan, have your A/C checked to make sure its operation is within GM specifications. If it's not cooling adequately, it may need to be recharged, the compressor may be faulty, the receiver/drier might be worn out, the condenser or evaporator may be damaged or the orifice tube needs replacement. Finally, C6 and C7 owners need to inspect their cabin air filter. If you own an '05-'19, you may not even know it has a cabin air filter, but it does. If that filter is has gone more than 36,000 miles, it could be restricted and a restricted cabin air filter will decrease the air conditioning system's ability to cool the interior.

If you are a DIY and are going to check-out and service your cooling system and A/C, a great place to buy parts is RockAuto.com.

Other News

Blankee Benefit

Southwest Section CFO Paula Megowan, tells the eNews that the first two lots of 2019 Caravan stadium blankets sold out. A third order was placed and some of that has already been sold, too. So far, the Blankee Benefit program has raised \$3275, much needed funds to operate the Caravan Section, but our projected costs are higher than that. Route Book ad sales are not going as well as for previous Caravans so, if you like the SW Section Blanket (see at right) we need your support. Ten blankets are still available.

Here's how it works. Any Southwest Section Caravaner who donates \$125.00 or more to the SouthWest Caravan Organizing Team gets a one of these blankets and will be listed in the 2019 Route Book as a "Blankee Benefactor".

In addition, on a group-order basis Corvette Clubs can obtain special versions of the blanket unique to their club. The minimum club order is 12. Any club with members registered for the Southwest Section which makes a donation to the Southwest Caravan Organizing Team of \$1800.00 or more will receive a dozen Stadium Blankets with the club's name sewn into the Blanket just below the Southwest Section logo. To order blankets contact Paula Megowan at (805) 659-505 or paula@goldandgoldcpas.com.



The 2019 Southwest Section Blanket. Image: eNews Staff

Club Glove Caravan Discount

In the eNews 13, we introduced American-made luggage for Corvette Caravaners made by high-end luggage maker and Southwest Caravan sponsor, Club Glove. We also announced that a 25% discount was forthcoming for anyone registered for the Southwest Section and wanting to buy any of Club Glove products, all of which can be embroidered with the Corvette logo of your choice.

The purchase process is quite simple. Go to the [main Club Glove web site](#) or their [Corvette Luggage site](#), pick your type of item, pick your Corvette logo, then enter code **CRVNCNU25** during the check-out process and the discount will be applied to your purchase. The discount, while it's a one time deal, applies to all Club Glove products, so if you want a really nice golf travel bag with an embroidered Corvette logo, order everything at one time and you get a discount on the golf travel bag, too.

In late March, Section XO Hib Halverson and Wife, the Fairest Sandra the Red, did a Museum Delivery of a 2019 ZR-1 and road-tested a pair of Club Glove TRS Ballistic "Check-In" type bags embroidered with the C7 logo. They used—and even abused—them on the flight from Burbank to Nashville and then on the 3000-mile drive home.

"On the jet to Nashville, our seats were right near the baggage compartment hatch. After we landed, while waiting to deplane, I was looking out the window and saw one of our Club Glove bags fall off the conveyor," Halverson told the eNews "When we picked up our stuff at baggage claim, neither the outside or anything inside had a mark on it. As far as the trip home, for a C5, -6 or -7 Coupe, the "Check-in" size Club Glove bag is the way to go. We only have two, but a coupe will actually fit three of them side by side and pushed forward to the bulkhead behind the seats. The bags are cavernous and the soft 'clothing organizing modules' are great for separating your stuff in the bag. Both the ultra-premium, TRS Ballistic line and the high-end, Roller Luggage line have these modules. Club Glove's bags worked great on our trip back from Bowling Green in the ZR-1 and they're going to make life easier on the road when we do the Caravan trip in August.



Section XO Halverson with all his stuff. First question we asked was, "Where's the top-mounted luggage carrier?" but, amazingly, he got the two Club Glove Check-Ins, as well as all that other stuff—and, later, even more—into the "Bad-Ass Bee". Image: eNews Staff

PreRun 6

Section Captain Tony Megowan and Wife, Paula, left Friday 19 April on PreRun6, the final pre-run trip which will cover the entire Caravan route from Pasadena to Bowling Green. Tony and Paula will make PreRun6 a six-day, rather than seven-day trip, bypassing the Valley-of-Fire side trip, because it's been pre-run so many times already, and driving straight to Grand Junction on their second day.

In addition to pre-running the Caravan route to gain information needed to compile the SouthWest Section's Route Book, Captain Megowan will also be meeting with Section Captains from the Pacific Central, Oklahoma/Texas Panhandle and Kansas/Missouri to discuss the times and places that our Section joins with their Sections on last couple of days of the trip. Additionally, Tony will meet with the staff of the Airline History Museum and Members of the Kansas City Corvette Club to make plans for the SouthWest Section's event at the Museum on the fifth night of the Caravan. Finally, a big meeting between Section Captains, the Corvette Club of Southeastern Missouri and the Cape Girardeau Visitor's Bureau will take place in Cape Girardeau, Missouri concerning the huge event there on 27 August the final night of the Caravan.

SouthWest Caravaners can follow Tony and Paula's PreRun6 adventure on the Southwest Section [Face-Book page](#).

We're Looking for a Few Good Advertisers

The Caravan Route Book is an 8 ½ x 11, softcover book distributed free-of-charge to each car on the Southwest Caravan. It contains route instructions, maps along with feature articles about National Caravaning and pictures from previous Caravans. Nearly 500 Southwest Caravaners will read this book each day of the seven-day trip to Bowling Green. The majority of the funds necessary to stage the SouthWest Corvette Caravan comes from sales of advertising in this Route Book. Paid advertisements are also posted on the [Southwest Section FaceBook](#) page. All proceeds from advertising come right back to Caravaners because the SouthWest Caravan Organizing Team uses that money to subsidize the cost of events.

Any business owner reading this eNews who wants to attract Caravaners as customers, should advertise in our Route Book. Advertising rates start at \$250.00 for an eighth page which is just a bit larger than a business card. Contact Section Commander Halverson at CmdrSCSN@netmotive.net for more information.

Thanks for reading
Yeoman L. Sharke, Editor



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