

Back To The Beach 2008

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New England Corvette Club

Old Orchard Beach, Maine was the setting for the Fifth Annual Back-to-the-Beach Corvette gathering, held from June 12-15 and organized with great precision by Ralph Quaglietta and Sandie Bergeron. They have turned this into the premier start-of-the-season event for Corvette clubs in New England!

Thursday was an optional day for attendees. Ralph and Sandie made arrangements for those who wanted to arrive early to be able to use their motel rooms a day in advance at a very reasonable reduced rate. They also arranged a discount breakfast at the Captain's Galley, the restaurant setting for so many of the weekend's events. Up to a quarter of all those attending (this year's total was 235!) chose to arrive on Thursday, and most spent the time on the beach, shopping and sight-seeing, or just catching up with friends around the pool.

Friday was the "official" start of the weekend, with people arriving from all over New England, and several from New York. The folks who drove the farthest came from Ohio! After checking in, many hustled on over to Maine Indoor Karting in Scarborough for an afternoon of Grand Prix Racing. At 4:00 the Atlantis, the Sea Drift and the Green Dolphin motels each hosted a welcome party for its guests, complete with complimentary hot hors-d'oeuvres and beverages. Dinner was the incredible Italian Buffet served by the Captain's Galley Restaurant.



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"Captain Mike" and his crew welcomed everyone with their usual fine food and superb service. They seem to enjoy the Corvette people as much as we enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Galley. Richie O and Company provided the dance music and the amusing patter as the Do-Wop Night started at 8:00 on Friday. Folks danced and partied until 11:00 before driving the two miles back to the motels.



Saturday began with a breakfast buffet at the Galley that would have satisfied a lumberjack! After eating, the attendees enjoyed the display of all the Corvettes in the parking lot of the restaurant. A number of day-trippers came in to display their cars, too, boosting the total to 230 Corvettes of all vintages on view! During the display judges chose a number of vehicles to receive special awards at the banquet later in the day. This was also the chance for folks to visit the several high-quality vendors who came in for the event and set up at the restaurant. Most people then took off for a day of sightseeing elsewhere, or simply to enjoy the exceptionally good beach weather, which lasted all weekend long!



Late on Saturday afternoon, Lt. Timothy Deluca of the Old Orchard Beach Police Department led an escorted cruise around Old Orchard Beach. Intersections were blocked off and traffic was stopped for the long line of Corvettes which cruised for over an hour through the streets of the town. This feature of the weekend was added last year, and proved to be so popular that Ralph and Sandie arranged for it again to the delight of all who drove and the many spectators waiting along



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the roadside with cameras! It was an awesome sight to see 115 Corvettes cruise through Old Orchard Beach and to see the reactions of the folks lining the streets.

The Awards Banquet (another outstanding buffet at the

Captain's Galley) was followed by the presentation of trophies to the winners of the Grand Prix Racing event, and to various Corvettes. Back-to-the-Beach is not a judged event; the trophies are presented by several of the sponsors and they personally select the Corvettes that win them. A trophy is also given to the Corvette club with the most members in attendance, and for the third year in a row it was awarded to the New England Corvette Club, a group based in southeastern Massachusetts. Corvettes United of Worcester (MA) tied this year for this award. Other clubs in attendance included Silver City CC, Spindle City CC, Triboro CC, Bristol County CC, South Shore CC, (all from Massachusetts), and Corvette Club of Rhode Island, the New York Gang, Seacoast Vettes and the Stray Dogs CC.

Sunday, the final day of the event, began with another huge breakfast buffet. Most people had already checked out of their motels and folks gradually headed out for home, already planning on next year's Back-to-the-Beach, to be held June 11-14, 2009. (Information is available at www.back2thebeach.net)

