

Back to the Beach, 2011



By: M. A. Persson, New England Corvette Club

“So, what’s new?” Ever have someone ask you that? Have you ever answered “How much time have you got?” If so, you’re in sync with the lucky Corvette folks who attended Back to the Beach June 9-12, 2011, because the short answer to that question would be: “Lots!” The long answer follows below!

As they have done for the past several years, Ralph Quaglietta and Sandie Bergeron, the organizers-extraordinaire of Back to the Beach, arranged for an optional fourth day of the event, the Thursday before the weekend. Many people like to arrive then, giving themselves some extra time to unpack, relax, shop or sightsee before the hard work of having fun all weekend begins!

The first new thing was Thursday’s fabulous Clam Bake, served at the Atlantis Motel. Later that day everyone waddled their way over to the Rock ‘n Roll Diner in nearby Scarborough for old-fashioned all-American comfort food in a 50s setting. Afterwards, back at the motels, the evening was warm and pleasant, so folks visited in the parking lots and relaxed on the beach chairs until lights-out.

Because the “official” start of the weekend isn’t until noon on Friday, many of the early birds opted for breakfast back at the Rock ‘n Roll Diner. Some participants then attended the Grand Prix Racing at Victory Lane Go Cart.

There was a welcoming party at each motel at 3:00, offering cheese, crackers, beer, wine and soft drinks, all part of the package Ralph and Sandie put together for their friends. The day drew to a close with an old friend and a new friend in attendance. Friday evening’s Italian Buffet, a classic offered every year, was served at Captain’s Galley, our home base for the weekend.

A new friend became a part of the B2B legend just before dinner: ELVIS! Yep, Elvis made one of his many post-mortem appearances at this year’s Back to the Beach, embodied by impersonator Jeff Jarvis of Jeff Jarvis Entertainment. He brought The King back to life right there in Old Orchard Beach, complete with white jumpsuit, jeweled belt, cool shades, teddy bears and silk scarves for a lucky few. Jeff was kind enough to take requests and allowed photos with his fans, and via his DJ service went on after supper to provide excellent dance music for those with enough energy remaining to cut a rug or two.

The weather on Saturday morning was a bit soggy, but the buffet at the Galley wasn’t! Folks enjoyed a good breakfast and visited the vendors who

Say you saw it in



were set up outdoors. Around 11:00 most attendees drove their Corvettes downtown to Main Street and parked six lanes wide and over 25 Corvettes deep for a brand new B2B event, the public Corvette Display. Despite intermittent showers, many locals and non-Corvette folks were able to enjoy the unique beauty and diversity of the 165 great cars that took part. The OOB Police and Fire Departments cooperated in closing off the streets needed and OOB firefighter Pierre Bouthiller took photos and video from the top of a hook and ladder truck. At the end of the designated display time, the OOB Police Department once again guided us on a parade through the streets of Old Orchard Beach.

On Saturday evening the classic American Buffet was served at the Captain's Galley, followed by the also-classic awards ceremony. John Cameron, did the DJ honors after the awards were done, and played excellent dance music for the energetic folks who remained at the Galley until closing.

Once again, Ralph and Sandie have managed to re-invent their event, adding new touches and polishing the best of the old ones to come up with a weekend that combines the two in a comfortable and always interesting way. Just as in taking good care of a Corvette, their attention to detail shows, and produces winning results, year after year.

For information about the upcoming 9th Annual Back to the Beach Corvette Weekend held on June 7th thru June 10th check out the website at www.back2thebeach.net.

