

# Back to the Beach 2014

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2014 is a banner year for Corvette Nation! The new Stingray has arrived, including the seven that arrived at Back to the Beach, held June 6-8, 2014.

Ralph and Sandie put together their usual great Corvette weekend, full of activities such as a clambake, the Corvette parade



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Taking pride of place in the display and throughout the week-end were the seven C7s, whose proud owners were kept busy answering the many questions from curious admirers.





This reporter had a chance to speak briefly with them and ask a few questions of her own!

Alan, from New Hampshire, bought his C7 in October of 2013 and still has only 837 miles on it! He loved the Night Race Blue with the Titanium interior the first time he saw it, and especially likes the performance, which he says is "way ahead" of previous Corvettes. He has owned eight others, so he should know! Asked why he had bought the C7, he said "The last one was three years old; it was time for a new one!" What would he change on the car: rear vision. It is too narrow in his opinion.

Mike, from Boston, drove in with his Laguna Blue/Titanium interior, which he had picked up on May 14th. The 3LT model gave him a "great interior" and he loves "the comfort of the seats." In the three weeks he has owned the car he's put 400 miles on it and likes everything about it: "ride, looks, interior, everything is unreal!" He said there was nothing he would change, and his favorite feature on the car is the back-up camera. The other four Corvettes he has owned did not feature this and he finds it very helpful.

John, from Massachusetts, bought his Torch Red coupe with the Adrenalin Red interior in October of 2013 with the automatic 6-speed shift. He has put a healthy 5800 miles on it since then and has gotten to know the car well. His favorite part? The exterior lines. He said "It just makes me smile!" He'd like to suggest that GM consider including mud guards, offer auto parking as an option, and make software upgrades available for new features like performance data recorders and the information screens. He suggested that the passenger compartment is less roomy than in prior years... really too cramped. He also thinks that Michelin needs to make an all-weather tire or they will lose the business of the folks who live where it gets cold!

Steve, from New Hampshire, came to Back to the Beach in his Arctic White/ Kalahari interior with 1800 miles on it. He picked it up on October 9, 2013 and loves the automatic transmission. What does he like best? Everything! The comfort, the performance, the poise. Best though, is the styling. He says "If you park a car and don't look back to stare at it, you bought the wrong car!" He finds himself constantly looking back. He'd like to suggest to GM that they work on the side vision; there is a big blind spot on each side. This car is his second Corvette, and he kept the first. Prior to that he was not a Corvette owner and says he could punch himself for waiting!

Frank, also from Massachusetts, bought his Cyber Gray/ Adrenalin Red in December of 2013. His favorite part is the interior, but he also really likes the power of the 6-speed automatic transmission. He would suggest that GM change the tires, and he didn't find the paint on his car up to his strict standards. Overall, though, he likes the vehicle and has put 1800 miles on the clock.

Bill, also from Massachusetts, bought an Arctic White with Black interior in May of 2014. He's already put 1400 miles on it. He's really likes the racing seats that he chose and would change nothing at all about this car. His exact words, "I love this car!"

Dan, from Massachusetts picked up his Lime Rock Green/Kalahari interior coupe in March of 2014, and has put just under 2900 miles on it since, despite a wet and stormy spring! His favorite features include the seating, the handling and the surprisingly high miles per gallon. Asked what he would change, he said he'd like to see Michelin come up with tires that are built for below 40 degree weather, and that his seat belt comes out of the track occasionally. He said he loved the color the moment

he saw it and now that it has been discontinued, it will become a collector's car. One of the previous four Corvettes he has owned was a dark green, and when he saw this one, he had to have it.

As far as what the 270 people at Back to the Beach like best, that's an easy one: everything about the weekend! The camaraderie with old friends and new, the good food in the welcoming surroundings, the beautiful jackets that Sandie and Ralph have provided for two years now... just too many details to list.

What would we change? Nothing! Sandie and Ralph have changed a few things, though. They have added calamari to the Saturday menu (a huge hit!); they have increased the number and quality of raffle prizes every year; and this year they added the Chip Miller Foundation and the Vettes to Vets event at the

Bedford, MA Veterans' Hospital to their list of charities supported by all funds raised during the weekend. The great vendors who come back every year include Galli Shirts and Sports Apparel and Norm's Detailing, featuring Adam's Premium Car Care Products. They bring nothing but high quality with them!





If you have not experienced a Back to the Beach weekend, you owe it to yourself to get on the mailing list ([www.back2thebeach.net](http://www.back2thebeach.net)) and get up to Old Orchard Beach in June of 2015. Thanks to the hard work of Ralph Quaglietta and Sandie Bergeron, it's always an experience not to be missed!

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