

CORVETTE INVASION 2019 – BASTROP, TX

Cruisers,

We were very fortunate to have another large car related event conducted in Bastrop over the weekend of July 18th through the 20th. Nearly 300 Corvettes of various generations/model years and their owners maneuvered into town for this 7th annual event. In past years this event has been held way North at the Oasis on Lake Travis and also exclusively at the Circuit of the Americas Race Track near Austin. Although COTA was still a part of the event on Sunday morning for track parade laps, this year, the city of Bastrop hosted the entire event at the Bastrop Convention Center and downtown Bastrop except for Sunday morning.

A total of 13 BAC Corvette owner members and relatives participated in this event this year. On Friday there were many vendors in the convention center and the entire event was open to the public. Shawn Jones, primary organizer of the event, provided two vendor spots to both the Bastrop Area Cruisers and the Bastrop VFW. On both Thursday and Friday, both vendor booths were open to Corvette Invasion participants and also to the general public. With the help of Ray Boyd on Friday and Pam and Bill Whitaker on Saturday, our BAC booth was very visible and right next to the VFW booth where VFW members sold raffle tickets. BAC and VFW members Dave and Jeanette Beegle assisted the VFW in selling raffle tickets with other VFW members. Tony Poletti from both the VFW and Lost Pines leathernecks was there early on Friday to set up the VFW booth. The VFW sold 500 tickets and took in just under \$700. At our BAC booth, we ended the weekend with at least three potential new members and sold over a dozen of last year's t-shirts and passed out flyers for the veterans show.

On Friday night there was a meet and greet with a live band, the Clutch Kings. Appetizers we're served and many vendor booths were still open. As you can see in the pictures, some character Transformer type robots from the Bastrop Film Alley Theater were there to help entertain the participants including Pat Riordon and Nancy Matocha! On Saturday morning starting at 7 a.m., Corvettes of all years and colors and models made their way into the convention center parking lot from the rear entrance. We had four BAC members of a total of 8 people assisting in parking all the Corvettes on the show field for the Saturday car show. Great job done by BAC members Greg Bloom, Frank Wilson, Bo Godfrey and Bill Szelag for the parking duties. The assistance was greatly appreciated by Shawn and his team. It was certainly easier then parking cars for our downtown car show on the streets but still challenging at times. By about 11 a.m. all the Corvettes were in place except for a few stragglers.

At 1 p.m. awards we're presented to the top 100 Corvettes at the show as judged by the show coordinators. BAC participant winners of awards were as follows; Bill & Claudia Heslep, Frank & Linda Wilson, Jeff and Maria Hughes, Pat Riordan, Dave & Leigh Stillson, and Bill & Mary Szelag. Other BAC members with registered Corvettes were Tom & Karen Jackson and Tom's two brothers Pete and Mike, Bo & Joan Godfrey, Derek Van Gilder with two cars and Bill Stillson, Dave's brother. Our Mayor and BAC member, Connie Schroeder was very active in welcoming members and even choose a Mayor Choice award. She was present at the the awards ceremony and thanked all for coming to Bastrop! Several other BAC members as shown in the pictures came to the event as spectators and enjoyed their time at the Corvette Invasion. I am sure they wished they owned a Corvette by the end of the day!?! Right Andre and Bruce??

The last event for Saturday for the Invasion was a parade through downtown Bastrop. Corvettes were lined up at the Bastrop area high school area from for nearly an hour before the first Corvette in line took off for the downtown parade. It is estimated that well over 200 of the nearly 300 Corvettes participated and the downtown parade with many spectators lining the streets along the way. I forgot to bring my windshield shade and as you can see in one of the pictures Mary and I made up a emergency windshield sun shield, pretty shoddy but helped some. After the parade many of the Corvette owners were parked on the streets of Bastrop enjoying the restaurants and downtown entertainment venues.

Although it was hot the entire weekend the event was very successful and many of the Corvette owner participants were extremely impressed with Bastrop and the convention center as well as the overall event. It is hoped that they will conduct the event in Bastrop again next year as it proved to be very beneficial to the city as well and was very strongly supported by the city of Bastrop departments, Visit Bastrop. Com and the Bastrop Main Street program. Many participants were from out of state so the hotels were full of Corvette owners and vendors. Please click on the link below for a Fox News video on the event!

Bill Szelag - Key Contributor to article

[Corvette Invasion Fox News Video](#)

[Corvette Invasion BAC Pictures](#)