

Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The Talepipe Newsletter



DECEMBER 2016

President: John Doria; Vice President: Arthur Armstrong; Treasurer: Richard Wetherby;
Secretary: Mickey Fritz; Directors: Bob Fritz, David Huber, & William Geize;
Newsletter Editor: Jean Doyle (with a little help from Ed)

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at T.G.I. FRIDAYS, located on the corner of Granada Avenue and A1A in Ormond Beach. We invite you to dine with us (Dutch treat) at 5:30 PM, and stay for the meeting, which begins at 7:00.

CELEBRATE THE CULMINATION OF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



The annual Christmas Banquet will be held on Tuesday evening, December 13th at the Halifax Plantation Golf Club in Ormond Beach. Happy half-hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar. Dinner will be served beginning around 6:30 p.m. By now you have made your entrée selection and sent your check to Richard. So the only thing left is to make sure you can find your way. Ormond Beach residents probably know their own way, but for those coming from Daytona Beach and places to the south, here are the directions: Take I-95 N to Exit 278 (Old Dixie Highway). Turn right at the end of the ramp. Proceed 1.8 miles and take a right onto Monaghan Drive into Halifax Plantation. (You will see other

entrances to Halifax Plantation, but be sure you go 1.8 miles before turning into the correct entrance.) Take the first right onto Halifax Clubhouse Drive, which dead ends at the Clubhouse. Parking is on both the left and right side.

AND, please don't forget to share the richness of your life with those a little less fortunate by bringing some nonperishable food or paper items with you to be donated to one of the local food banks.

Wouldn't it be a nice present to see all 56 members present?

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you plan to continue your membership with the Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona, you must pay your dues of \$70 by New Year's Eve, December 31. Remember that if your check is not received by the deadline, you will no longer be considered a member and

your spot will be filled by someone on the waiting list. No reminder phone calls will be made, so pick up your checkbook, and write out a check to Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona (CCGD) for \$70.00. Mail it to Richard Wetherby, 158 Sea Pines Circle, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Dues pay for such things as our domain name, our website, certain club activities, insurance, and corporation fees, just to name a few.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017: Our first Dining on the Run for the new year will be for lunch on January 8th at HighJacker's at the Flagler County Airport in Palm Coast. More



about when and where to meet will be in the January Newsletter.

- ◆ Several restaurants new to the club are planned for upcoming DOTR's.
- ◆ Also, participants enjoyed themselves so much at Bowling and the Dice Ride, that another of each is planned for 2017.
- ◆ And, look for some new events to hit the calendar. **2017 is going to be a very good year!!**
- ◆ Also, the club is going to test out a new facility for a possible future meeting room. The January meeting will be held at Mellow Mushroom off of Tayler Road in Port Orange. Same date (January 17th), same time (5:30 p.m. for meal, 7:00 p.m. for meeting). Note: **This is only a test.**

REVIEWS OF THE LAST OF 2016:

HALLOWEEN HIJINKS: If I had to pick one house at which to trick or treat, I



think I would choose the home of Bob and Linda Wolff, especially the night of the Halloween Party. The front entrance was

adorned with a spooky horseless carriage and some ghostly figures that beckoned one to the front door. Greeted by a frightful but friendly witch, the strange cast of characters began to arrive one by one. Creepy crawlies led the way to a kitchen full of treats, from a caldron of hot chili to some spidery deviled eggs to pumpkin cheesecake and a bit of everything in between. Witches brews of fruit punch, lemonade, tea, coffee, beer, and wine were available to quench a parched throat. Black netting adorned the nooks and crannies, and an array of Halloween decorations were scattered about. Skeletons floated in the pool, one of which was enjoying a beer and a cocktail, jack-o-lanterns were here and there, as were black screeching cats and grizzly spiders. The strange mix of characters on hand for a ghoulish good time were Batman who arrived on his "Batcyclemobile," the Joker, a hot dog and a bottle of beer, Mary Poppins and her chimney sweeper, two escaped convicts, a fisherman complete with boat, two Starbucks baristas, two Oompa Loompas (from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate

Factory), a priest and a nun, a chef and a Bavarian beer wench, a witch, a kitty cat, a member of a swat team (armed with his trusty flyswatter), and a frosty beer mug. Following a spirited game of Halloween Pictionary, costume winners were announced. Only one word describes the winner of the Most Creative Costume - SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS for Mary Poppins (aka Leslie Armstrong); Best Costume was Batman (aka John Reis); Funniest Costume were the Oompa Loompas (aka Vin and Tracy Giglio); and Best Couple Costume were Mary Poppins again and her sidekick Chimney Sweeper (aka Art Armstrong). Each was presented with a creepy trophy of a skull or a hand and a bottle of wine. Many thanks go to Bob and Linda for a great party. We can't wait 'till next year --- we'll be baaaaaack. (Photos by Jean and Richard).

FINAL DOTR OF THE YEAR: Cypress Head Golf Course was the destination for the November Dining on the Run. Thirteen Vettes made their way through the streets of Port Orange eager to try out this newly remodeled restaurant. Considering this was the same date we moved our clocks back one hour to Eastern Standard Time, no one was too early or too late. Seated at three tables, including a designated "Bachelor's table" our tangerine shirts brought a definite hint of color to the room. Following Corvette Cruiser tradition, Ed was the last to get his meal again. Enjoying breakfast and

solving the problems of the world were Liz, Edie, Richard, Rick D., John D., Sally, Herb, Shirley, Bob W., Linda, Sheila, Rick M., Bill N. Evelyn, Bill G., Jean and Ed. It was so nice to have Ken Crick and Trish Ardler joining us after a long absence and Mike Mills returning after spending several months hanging out with his grandson in New York. A few little glitches made the meal quite interesting. The restaurant was accommodating as they brought an extra portion of fried potatoes to make up for tiny servings on some plates. And after several requests for the whipped cream to go on top of the Belgian Waffle as advertised, the server apologized, admitting they couldn't find it in the kitchen. Eventually, she managed to steal some from the bar. Everyone raved about the coffee and the service was excellent. It was a nice way to start the day and end our DOTR's for the year. (Photos by John D. and Jean)

WHAT A FUN EXPERIENCE!! The Dice Ride was deemed a grand success by all those participating. Meeting at the Bank of America (a shady spot near Bealls parking lot), twenty-six members and one guest signed up, paid the fee, received score cards with driving directions and took the first shot at rolling the five dice. Some moans and some cheers were heard after the first roll, then we hopped in our cars and were off to the next stop. Winding our way



through the "real" Florida, rural farmland and miles and miles of trees without a single condo in sight, we came to our second stop at Cody's Corner. Again, more moans and a few cheers after the dice roll, and on to the next stop. Each stop was blazoned with balloons, a Corvette Cruiser banner, and a table with a tangerine tablecloth. Under the direction of Jamie and Ken Hawes, with the help of Jamie's brother Roger and sister-in-law Eileen, everything progressed as smooth as silk. The third stop was a convenience store in Bunnell and a good pit stop for those who suffer from TWB (teeny weeny bladder). The competition was becoming intense. Then on to Tom Gibbs for the fourth roll. Here we got to view several 2017 Corvettes to many oohs and ahhs and the critical eye only Corvette owners can give. (At this point a few of us ran into a very strange character. Ask Liz and Edie to tell you their story, which involved a gun and a Christmas sweater.) Our final stop and final dice roll came at the Hidden Treasures Bar and Grill on the banks of the Intracoastal Waterway in Flagler Beach, where we enjoyed lunch, lots of conversation and LOTS of prizes. Several gift certificates from Publix, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Culvers, Fridays, Barratt Jackson Car Detailer and some cool seat belt covers were awarded. Alas, our 52-mile adventure had come to an end with only one duty left - announcing the winners. **Drum Roll Please:** Trish Ardler won 1st place of \$25 with the high score of

104. Ed Doyle and Maya Branden were tied with a score of 102 and had a roll-off to determine 2nd and 3rd place. With only a 2-point advantage in the final roll, Ed finished 2nd winning \$15, and Maya took home \$10 for 3rd place. Last place with a score of 70 was Evelyn Neway who broke even with a prize of \$5. Perhaps the most inconsistent roller (and one who should never be invited to play craps) would be Jean, who rolled a 28 on one roll, only to roll 9 on the next. Again, many, many thanks to Jamie Hawes, Ken, Jamie's brother and sister-in-law for all their hard work making the first Corvette Cruiser Dice Ride a wonderful success. Others participating not previously mentioned were Bill G., Richard, Art, Leslie, Dave, Rick M., Sheila, Gary, Cindy, Bill N., Bob W., Linda, Ken, Lars and guest Evie, Rick D., Gloria, and JR. I think collectively we all say "Let's do it again!!" (Photos by Evelyn, Richard and Jean)

*A footnote: The 50/50 of \$38 was won by Ken Hawes, a good reward for a job well done - hope you share with Jamie.)

BY-LAW CHANGES: A By-Laws Committee presented proposed changes to the Board of Directors. After their approval, the Board presented the changes to the membership, who gave their final approval at the November meeting. A summary of these changes include:



- 1) Changing the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year.
- 2) Attendance at a meeting must be at least one of the three events required before joining.
- 3) New members must join immediately after attending their third event.

The complete By-Laws and Addendums can be viewed in the Members' Only section of the club website.

NOT A CLUB EVENT, BUT..... ten members (Bill G., Gary, Bill N., Evelyn, Jim, Ginny, Bob F., Mickey, Ed, and Jean) in six Corvettes made the trek to Ocala for the Marian County Corvette Show. A beautiful day in a shopper's paradise surrounded by over 100 Corvettes made for a pleasant afternoon, especially when one of our very



own snagged a trophy. Bill and Evelyn Neway picked up the award for Best in Class for their beautiful 2013 60th Anniversary showstopper.

Congratulations to the Neways!!

NUMBER SIXTY-FIVE: This edition of our Newsletter that you are reading now, marks the 65th anniversary of the present editorial staff. Yep, I, along with my proofreader and contributor of Corvette

Chatter, Ed, have cranked out 65 issues. Let's see, isn't 65 the magic number for retirement? We think that message is becoming louder and louder. We think it's time for new thoughts, new ideas, and new words, to put a new spin on getting the news out to you, our members. It's been a long run, but a good one.

THIS & THAT

Happy Birthday to those born in December:

3 rd	Maya Branden
6 th	Arne Ellgard
11 th	Sandy Cassella
25 th	Herb Gerstel
29 th	Bob Fritz
30 th	Ken Crick

Happy Anniversary to Art and Leslie Armstrong -- #19 and going strong.

\$50/50\$ - Evie, a guest of Lars Connolly at the November meeting, pulled the lucky number belonging to Shirley Gerstel, who went home with \$43.00. Nice haul, Shirley!

Get Well Message: So good to see Mickey Fritz on the mend after some recent surgery.



I had only two guesses on last month's puzzle. And after a few tries on the identity of the boy, Liz Byrne got it right. The little boy in the photo is Gary Swanson, standing on a 1928 Chevrolet. Looks like Gary got an early start on his love of automobiles.

Remember: The monthly Newsletter is your information source for all club news ... the news of what's presently going on, a review of what has occurred during the past month, and a preview of what's to come. Unless you attend the meeting, this is your *ONLY* source of information. Please read it so you, too, can be informed. And, as always, your suggestions for improving it are always welcomed. Is there enough Corvette news? Is the font easy to read? Do you like the format? What additions or deletions can you suggest to make this a better tool for our members? Please let Jean know your thoughts.

Yours for the Asking: John Reis has bras for a C5 and C6 models. If you are interested, please let John know. He has no use for either since he now has a C7.

Daytona State College Car Show: About six members took advantage of the free car show in celebration of the Daytona State College Homecoming on Saturday, November 5th. Those attending said it was

a good show and certainly worth the price.
(Photos by Richard and Evelyn)

MEMBER'S CORNER

This is a new feature of the Newsletter and I hope one that will be used by many members of our club. If you have a story to tell, an anecdote to relate, or perhaps a funny (family-approved) joke, this is the place to do it. My hope is that other members will take advantage of this opportunity and provide some interesting commentary. This is *YOUR* Newsletter!! This month we have special contributor Gary Swanson with the following:

While visiting friends and relatives in western New York this summer, I stopped by the shop of my friends Alistair "Al" and Jeanne Oag. Al is the current president of the Chautauqua Lake Region Antique Automobile Club of America, and Jeanne is the editor of their newsletter, "The Runningboard Rundown". They run a successful business in Jamestown, NY called Interprep Performance Tuning. Al's background is in sports car construction, engine building, and racing. Al started racing in the early 80's driving a Saab Sonnet. He raced in the VW Cup series for six years, winning the championship in 1986. He won the SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) Escort Endurance championship in 1987, and in 1988 was 2nd in the Firestone Firehawk Touring series, winning the Rising Star Award. Al continued on through the 90's racing in various series while also building engines for himself and others. Interprep powered cars won numerous titles, including the 1992 Canadian Firehawk Championship and the 1993 Canadian Endurance Road Racing Championship. In 1994, Al, with Schmidt Racing,

had 7 wins, 4 seconds, 1 third, and 1 fourth in 13 starts.

These days Al doesn't race anymore, but is very involved with the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association (SVRA). In addition to repairing mainly sports and foreign cars in the local area, he maintains three cars for Bob Lima Racing, including a highly modified 1969



Corvette. This car is powered by a great sounding big block 454 engine, bored slightly to 468 cubic inches. The other two

cars are a 1967 Brabham BT21 that was formerly owned and driven by Dick Smothers in the Grand Prix Series in 1967 and 1968, and a 1978 Lola Y298. The Brabham weighs 950 lbs. and is rated at 190 hp, while the Lola weighs 1350 lbs. and is powered by a 300 hp 2 liter Ford/Cosworth engine. Needless to say, with those power-to-weight ratios, these cars will really scoot. While I was there, the Corvette was having its cracked trailing arms repaired and re-enforced, and the transmission had just been repaired.



There are sixteen venues currently hosting SVRA events, ranging geographically from the west to the east coast, and everywhere in between. The Sebring FL event is held annually on the 1st weekend in March, and I was fortunate to be able to attend the 2015 races and join the Corvette crew in the pit area. A couple of weeks after that, the series competes at



Amelia Island. Depending on the venue and current condition of the cars (racing stuff happens!), usually one or two cars make

the trip to the half dozen or more events Lima racing chooses to attend each year. Cars are classified into 12 groups plus specialty classes at SVRA events. In Lima Racings' case, the Corvette runs in group 6, the Brabham in group 2, and the Lola in group 7.

There are no monetary awards in SVRA, this is hobby racing, and there are groups to accommodate almost every car and budget. At Sebring I saw lower cost cars brought in on open trailers behind pickup trucks (or another car), as well as high dollar motor coaches towing huge enclosed trailers containing two or more cars with all the spare parts and tools to accommodate them. There seems to be a place for everyone, no matter how shallow or deep their pockets are. The racing is meant to be fun and friendly and there is a lot of cooperation among the participants. A ton of information is available on the SVRA website, including schedules, regulations, and racing results.

Submitted by Gary Swanson

CORVETTE CHATTER

HOW A PAIR OF BOOTS SAVED THE 1983 CORVETTE

The Chevrolet C4 Corvette was poised to be a major milestone in Corvette history. It was to be all new from the ground up and encompass the latest cutting edge technologies to make the car a world beater in a changing globe. But, like all automotive manufacturers, safety and fuel economy regulations took hold of development procedures. Designers and engineers were challenged equally to create appealing products while satisfying newfound regulations. And through development of the C4 Corvette, it became apparent the vehicle would not be ready for its launch in late 1982. So, the Corvette development team made the hard decision to forfeit the entire 1983 model year to focus on fixing problems and shortcomings found in initial test cars. This

also meant the Corvette would not celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Each 1983 C4 Corvette assembled at the Bowling Green factory would be crushed and disposed of locally, with upper management bringing in a crusher on site. However, when the time came to crush each 1983 Corvette, a pair of cowboy boots saved one car's life. Ralph Montileone, Quality Manager at the Bowling Green plant in 1983, was responsible for ensuring each car was destroyed and disposed of. However, the day the crusher arrived, it began to rain. With mud puddles beginning to form and the rain turning into a stormy downpour, Montileone recalls looking down at his feet to see his brand new cowboy boots. At this point, with still one more to be crushed, he decided dirtying his new boots was not an option; he would move the final 1983 Corvette to the crusher the next day. But, the crusher departed without Montileone's knowledge, and when he returned the next day, the only 1983 Corvette left sat there with no way to dispose of it. So, he pulled it around to the back of the assembly plant and there it sat. And it would continue to sit for almost two years. It wasn't until Paul Schnoes, who was transferred to the Bowling Green assembly as manager in 1984, inquired about the peculiar Corvette. He simply asked what a Corvette was doing covered in the back of the factory, and when he received the answer, he realized it was truly something special.

The 1983 C4 Corvette would finally go on display for visitors of the plant after the Bowling Green assembly requested official ownership of it from General Motors. Now, it resides at its permanent home at the National Corvette Museum all thanks to a spiffy new pair of boots.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

(as seen on the Home Page):

What could be more holiday-like than a snowy scene in small-town America with a pretty red Corvette hauling a Christmas tree? The Christmas tree will make it home no matter what kind of vehicle you happen to have available. (Doesn't it just curl your toes to know what that tree did to the top of that car!!)



A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

May your holiday be rich with love, warm with friendship, happy with good health, and blessed with the joys of the Season. We have enjoyed bringing you the news of the Corvette Cruisers over the past sixty-five months. Here's wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a healthy and happy 2017.

Jean and Ed