

Corvette Cruisers of Greater Daytona The "Talepipe" Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2021

**President: John Doria; Vice President: Gary Swanson; Treasurer: William Simmons;
Secretary: Jamie Hawes; Directors: Elizabeth Byrne, Ed Doyle, William Geize;
Newsletter Editor: Jean Doyle**

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (through June, 2021) at the Hidden Lakes Golf Club, 35 Fairgreen Ave., New Smyrna Beach. If this location changes, it will be noted in the body of the Newsletter. We invite you to dine with us (Dutch treat) at 5:30 p.m. and stay for the meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Coming Up

HERE WE COME, PALATKA: Corky Bell's Restaurant has been a favorite of the seafood lovers in our club for some time now, even when it was known as Gator's Landing. Regardless of the name, the food is always good and the view from the deck is spectacular. If you are not a seafood fan, Corky Bell's offers many other choices. Hopefully, it will be a beautiful day and we will enjoy dining on the deck. **We will leave from Bealls parking lot in Ormond at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 7th.** Check out the menu at www.corkybellseafood.com for a preview.

And for all you football fans out there, yes, this is Super Bowl Sunday. But rest assured, you will be home in plenty of time to see the game and all its pre-game hype.



STAYING PUT THROUGH JUNE: The Board of Directors discussed the location of our monthly meetings and came to the decision to continue to meet at the Hidden Lakes Golf Club at least through June. Ideally, the club would like to find a meeting place more centrally located for our club members; however, this is not as easy as one might think. So, until another suitable location can be found, the club will continue to meet at Hidden Lakes, where members can spread out safely, enjoy some good food, and feel safe throughout this pandemic. Perhaps by June, Covid-19 will be a thing of the past.

CARS AND COFFEE: As a way of getting back in the swing of things, the club is planning attendance at an area car, switching around to different ones throughout the year. Our first venture will be at the Cars and Coffee show in New Smyrna Beach, located next to the Wawa on Route 44. **The show takes place on Saturday, February 20th and runs only from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.** This gives you just enough time to look at the cars and perhaps eat a donut and drink some coffee. We will meet at the event, so come on out and show off your car at this short and sweet local show.



ACTIVITIES ON THE HORIZEN: Take a peek at the Club Calendar for a glance at what's ahead. More car shows will be in store for 2021, although not yet on the calendar. The bar-b-que picnic will return to its normal date. Get a chance to feel like a kid again when you participate in the mini-golf tournament in April. Take a look at the planned Dining on the Run (DOTR) locations through June. Remember that your ideas are always welcome. If you know of an event you would like the club to participate, let a board member know.

NEW CORVETTE FOLKS: There are several Corvette owners in the areas who have shown an interest in our club. Hopefully, we will see some of these folks at our meeting and/or events, so be on the lookout. (There were 3 prospective members at our January meeting.) If you see someone new, introduce yourself and welcome them.

Review

FIRST DOTR OF 2021! It's 8:30 a.m and 39 degrees at the Sunshine Park Mall. Seven Corvettes are lined up, ready to head out for an outdoor breakfast at Goodrich's in Oak Hill. They say only the strong survive, and the strong survivors for this outing were Edie, Liz, Bill G., Bill S., Bonita, John D., Sally, Bud, Mary, John P., Rose, Ed and Jean. Shall we eat outside? Inside? Inside? Outside? --- the decision was tossed around a bit with only one voting to dine outside. When we arrived (the temperature had jumped to a balmy 43°),

the staff had our tables ready both inside and out, but the group opted to remain inside. Since Bonita did not get to wear her Christmas hat to the Christmas party, she donned it for breakfast, calling a nearby patron to ask who the celebrity was at our table. Goodrich's was nice enough to extend their breakfast special past the normal time for us, and a special it was! Where else can you get 2 eggs, sausage or bacon, 2 pancakes, French toast or a croissant and all the coffee you could drink for \$5.29? Following breakfast, the sun beckoned us out on the deck, where the wind told us we made the right decision to remain inside. It turned out to be a nice way to start off the New Year. We now know who the crazy gamblers are in this club! (a reference to last month's Newsletter.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new ID and PASSWORD will be sent to you via email within the next week. This new ID and PASSWORD will get you into the Members Only section on our website. Remember that a password would defeat its purpose if it was easy to remember. (Sorry John.). Watch for it!

New Board Member: Linda Wolff has submitted her resignation as a Director of the club. Because she and Bob have substantially reduced their activity due to the coronavirus, Linda does not feel she can contribute much to the Board. Filling out her term will be Ed Doyle, who has served as a board member many years ago. We appreciate Linda for her work in the past and Ed for stepping up to the plate.

STATS



CCGD STATISTICS REPORT: Our annual status report shows again that the Corvette Cruisers are a pretty diverse group. Covid-19 has had a little influence on our membership where several members sold their 'Vettes for lack of using them, and some are still not too sure about getting out. This has caused our membership to decrease, but as in the past, the numbers always turn around.

As of Feb 1st, we have 19 memberships, made up of 35 active members from the Greater Daytona area: 15 from Ormond Beach; 9 from Port Orange, 2 from Daytona Beach, 4 from New Smyrna Beach, and 5 from Daytona Beach Shores. At this time, our club members own 25 Corvettes: 9 reds, 5 yellows, 3 whites, 3 blues, 3 blacks, 1 silver, and 1 orange. There are 1(C-1); 3 (C-2), 1 (C-3); 1 (C-4); 2 (C-5); 4 (C-6); 11 (C-7).and 2 (C-8). The coupes are in the lead but not by much –14 coupes to 11 convertibles. Automatic transmissions have taken a commanding lead as well with 18. Does this mean we are getting too old for a manual transmission? Surely not!!

With new members coming into the fold, these numbers are sure to change, and we definitely welcome that, but for right now, this is a little peek into our club.



This & That

Happy Birthday to Del Fot on the 1st, John Doria on the 13th, and John Pona on the 20th.

February is for lovers with Valentine's Day being on the calendar. Taking advantage of that little tidbit, the Dorias, the Slatons, and the Swansons all got married in February. Congratulations!! However.....



It's a special one for Steve and Anita...50 years !!! The happy couple would like us all to celebrate with them at the February meeting where a special treat will be served.

Please keep George Weissgerber in your thoughts. He is undergoing open chest surgery to remove blood clots in his lungs. We are all pulling for a complete and speedy recovery, George. Your Corvette, and Penny, are waiting for you.

The winner of the first 50/50 drawing for the new year was John/Sally for \$23.00. That should start your year off with good luck. You can make a payment on your new Corvette. LOL.

And speaking of winners ...over a year ago, when the talk of the C8 being produced first came out, Jamie had each member write down the name of the club member they thought would be the first owner of a C-8. Several guesses were made, among them Bill Geize, Bob Wolff, Bill Neway, Ed Doyle, Ken Hawes, and Liz and Edie. None, however, got a C8. John Doria did purchase a C8 and had two votes, one from himself, which was

disqualified, and one from another member. However, Liz voted for “future member to be determined.” Therefore, the prize then went to Barry and Beverly Luckenbach, who were actually the first in the club to have a C8. Barry won a Maguires car product and Liz got \$10 bucks for the right guess.

'Vette Etc

By Jean

COULD IT BE? Could Corvette finally be making a dent in sales to a younger crowd?

As the average age of Corvette customers continued to spiral upward with each generation of the car, Chevy made no secret that its goal with the C7 and C8 was to lure fresh blood to the mix.

So far, so good with the new mid-engine eighth generation!

According to Vice President of GM North America Steve Hill, two out of three C8 buyers are new to Chevy.

The company has also discovered that prospective C8 customers have been cross-shopping the new Stingray with its long-time rival, the Porsche 911, more than any other car. So far, the Corvette seems to be winning the numbers race with 8,992 Corvettes sold during the last quarter of 2020 (up from 3,491 during the same period in 2019).

The new Stingray features an LT2 V8 engine that with the optional Performance Exhaust produces 495 horsepower. It goes from 0 to 60 in less than 3 seconds and has been praised for its driving characteristics, technological features, and most of all for its astoundingly low base price of \$59,995. Options are also much less expensive than on the Porsche.

Speaking of the 911, it's no contest when it comes to numbers. The 2021 Porsche 911 Carrera coupe starts out at \$100,550 and delivers much less performance – going from 0 to 60 in 4 seconds (3.8 with the optional Sport Chrono pack) with its 379 horsepower 3.0-liter twin-turbo flat-six engine.

The 911 Carrera S delivers faster numbers (0 to 60 in 3.5 seconds or 3.3 seconds with the Sport Chrono pack and 443 horsepower) but at an increased price of \$116,450.

It's a fact that the Porsche and Corvette crowds are extremely loyal to their brands, but the fact that research shows 67 percent of C8 owners are new customers for Chevy and that more shoppers are comparing the two models, has to be great news for General Motors.

RUMOR: GM May Be Working on a Corvette-Branded Electric SUV for 2025.

Are you ready for this?



Corvette blogs were going crazy over an SUV spotted during GM's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) presentation. It turns out that SUV was a Buick EV (electric vehicle) concept, but that doesn't mean there isn't the potential for a Corvette-branded SUV in the works.

The rumors about GM creating a multi-vehicle line-up around the Corvette have been around for years now and with the major push for

electrification, this could be the time for GM to act.

The automaker has pledged \$27 billion to build 30 new EVs by 2025, and sources familiar with the plans say that one of those could be a new electric vehicle inspired by the Corvette. The report says that GM has its design team “working on several Corvette-brand concept vehicles to target a wider range of buyers.” The goal is to “blend Corvette’s reputation for high-performance driving and rakish style with creature comforts such as more interior room and storage.”

Corvette-branded crossover could go on sale as soon as 2025 which fits the timeline for GM’s electrification push. This would be a pure battery electric vehicle (BEV) and not a vehicle with a hybrid powertrain that could be coming to the Corvette lineup in 2023 as the rumored E-Ray/Grand Sport model.

It could be that GM is following in the footsteps of cross-town rival Ford which utilized the heritage of the Mustang to launch the Mustang Mach E. Meanwhile, Porsche has been very successful in launching a number of branded vehicles outside the sports-car platform.

STATS MONTH FOR CORVETTE: We love January for so many reasons. It’s the time of classic car auctions, the Corvette race team returns to action at Daytona, and of course, it’s the month that we drop our annual Top 100 Corvette Dealers list for Corvette shoppers. Dealers in the United States sold a total of 21,626 Corvettes during the 2020 calendar year. That total includes any remaining 2019s that were still around following the model year changeover as well as the new 2020 Corvettes.

Kerbeck in Atlantic City leads the way with 866 Corvettes sold. By comparison, I have listed only the FL dealers that rank in the top 100. Included is their ranking and the number of Corvettes sold.

5. Bomnin #1	Miami	296
6. Stingray	Plant City	235
12. Bomnin #2	Miami.	121
15. Don Mealey	Clermont	102
16. Estero Bay	Estero	97
23. Rick Hendricks	Naples	80
24. Jon Hall	Daytona Beach	78
28. Maher Chev.	St. Pete	74
40. Grieco	Delray Beach	57
42. Ferman	Tampa	52
42. Autonation	Green Acres	52
47. Shumacher	Lake Park	47
47. Tropical	Miami	47
51. Coggin	Jacksonville	46
54. Bachrodt Chev.	Coconut Creek.	44
54. Autonation	Pembroke Pines	44
60. Sunset	Sarasota	41
62. Cox	Bradenton	38
71. Dimmit	Clearwater	35
71. Wallace	Stuart	35
100. New Smyrna	New Smyrna	30
100. Starling	Orlando	30
100. Miami Lakes	Hialeah	30

So, if you’re shopping and comparing prices, FL dealers are a good place to start looking.

SEE YA NEXT MONTH

Happy Groundhog Day
Happy Valentine’s Day
Happy Presidents’ Day

Let’s be happy this month.

